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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

ORDEALS!

IT WAS JUST WEEKS AGO THAT FELICIA HARDY, THE BLACK CAT, WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. SHE WOULD HAVE DIED, WERE IT NOT FOR--

--the **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**



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WRITER

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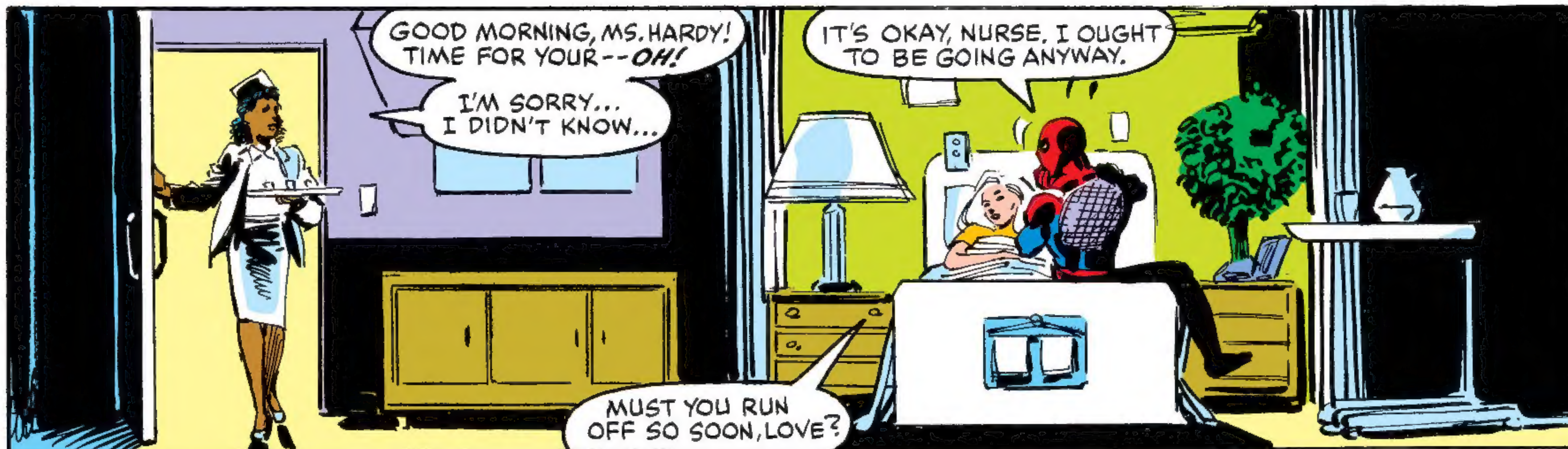
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JOHN ROMITA JR. & KLAUS JANSON
ARTISTS

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

KNOWING NOW JUST HOW FLEETING LIFE CAN BE, SHE TAKES EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HER GRATITUDE...



GOOD MORNING, MS. HARDY! TIME FOR YOUR--OH!

I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T KNOW...

IT'S OKAY, NURSE. I OUGHT TO BE GOING ANYWAY.

MUST YOU RUN OFF SO SOON, LOVE?



'FRAID SO, FELICIA, I HAVE BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF ...IMPORTANT BUSINESS... AND I CAN'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER--

--NOT IF WE'RE TO HAVE A CHANCE OF ANY KIND OF FUTURE. SEE YOU!



Y-YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, MS. HARDY. I'M NOT USED TO VISITORS COMING AND GOING BY WAY OF THE WINDOWS.

MS. HARDY? HELLO?

I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO GUESS WHAT HE COULD HAVE MEANT BY "IMPORTANT BUSINESS"! IT SEEMS LIKE ALL HE DOES--



"--IS PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR OTHERS. IF HE ISN'T FIGHTING DR. OCTOPUS OR THE PUNISHER, HE'S TRYING TO TRACK DOWN NEW MENACES--"

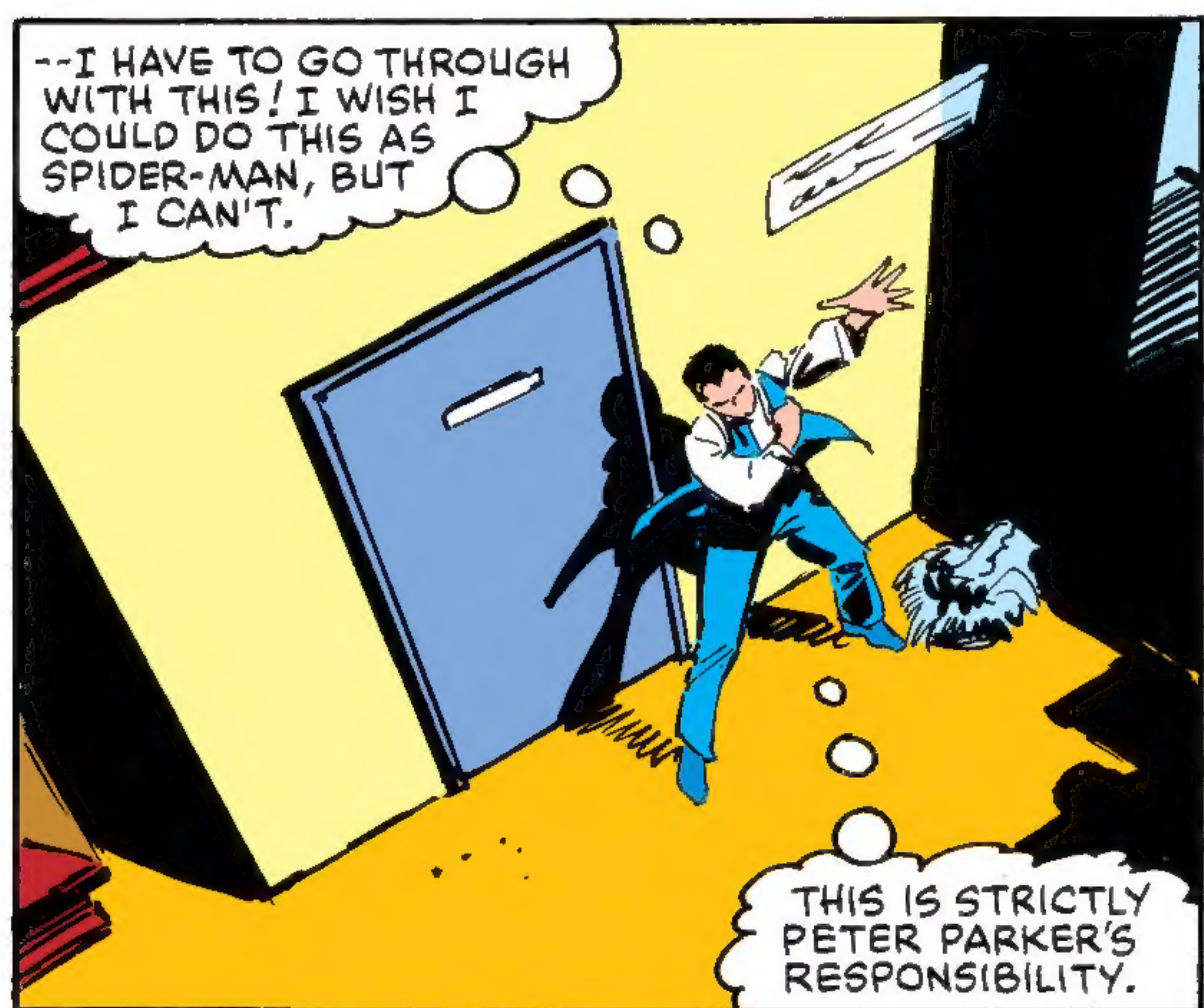
--LIKE THIS HOBGOBLIN PERSON WHO SEEMS TO HAVE HIM SO WORRIED. I WISH I COULD HELP SOMEHOW. LYING HERE, HELPLESS, IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!



MOMENTS LATER, MANY CITY BLOCKS AWAY...

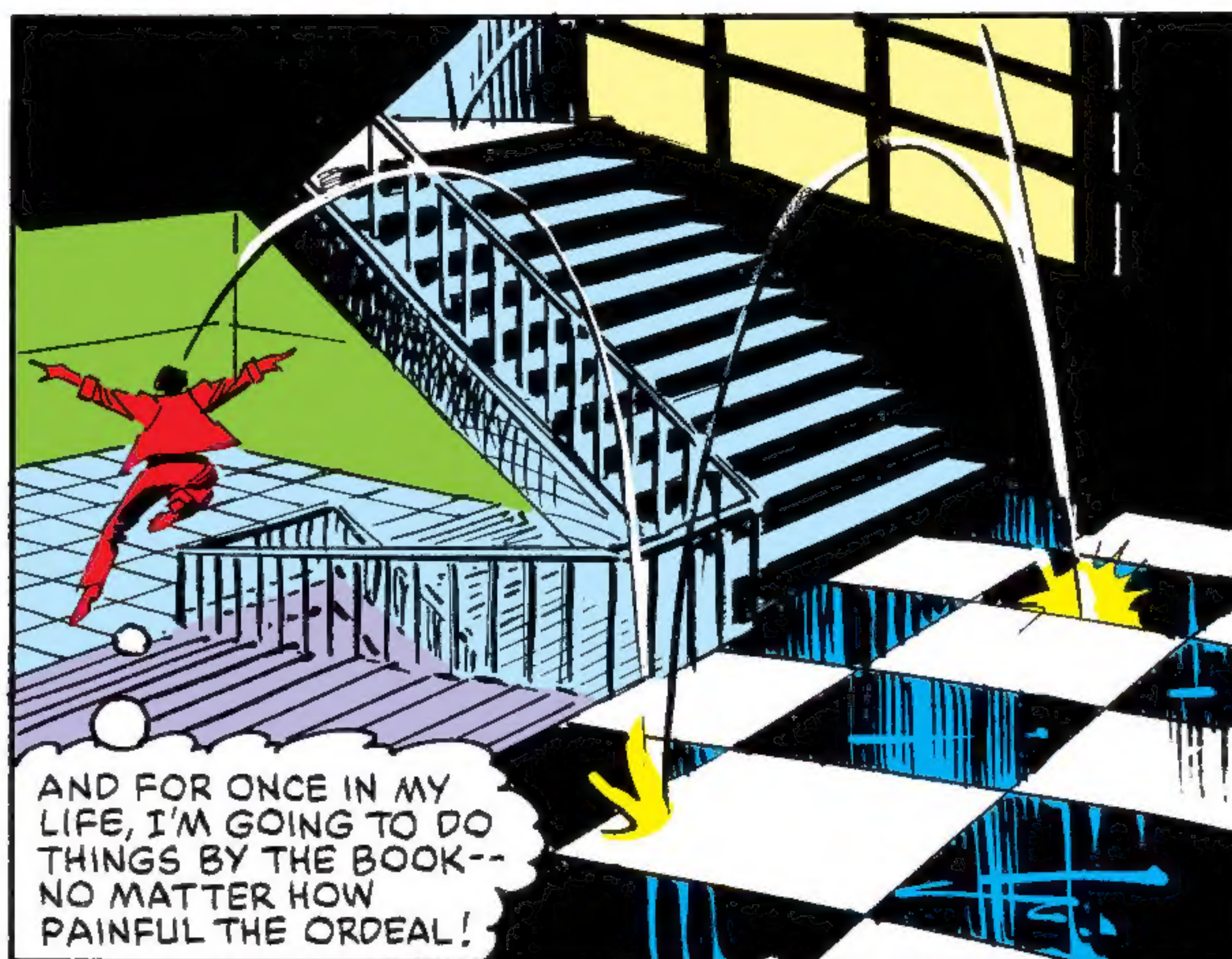
THIS CERTAINLY WON'T BE PLEASANT, BUT IT'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.

FELICIA'S HOSPITAL BILLS WILL BE A SMALL FORTUNE, IF I WANT TO GET THE FREE TIME TO EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER THEM--

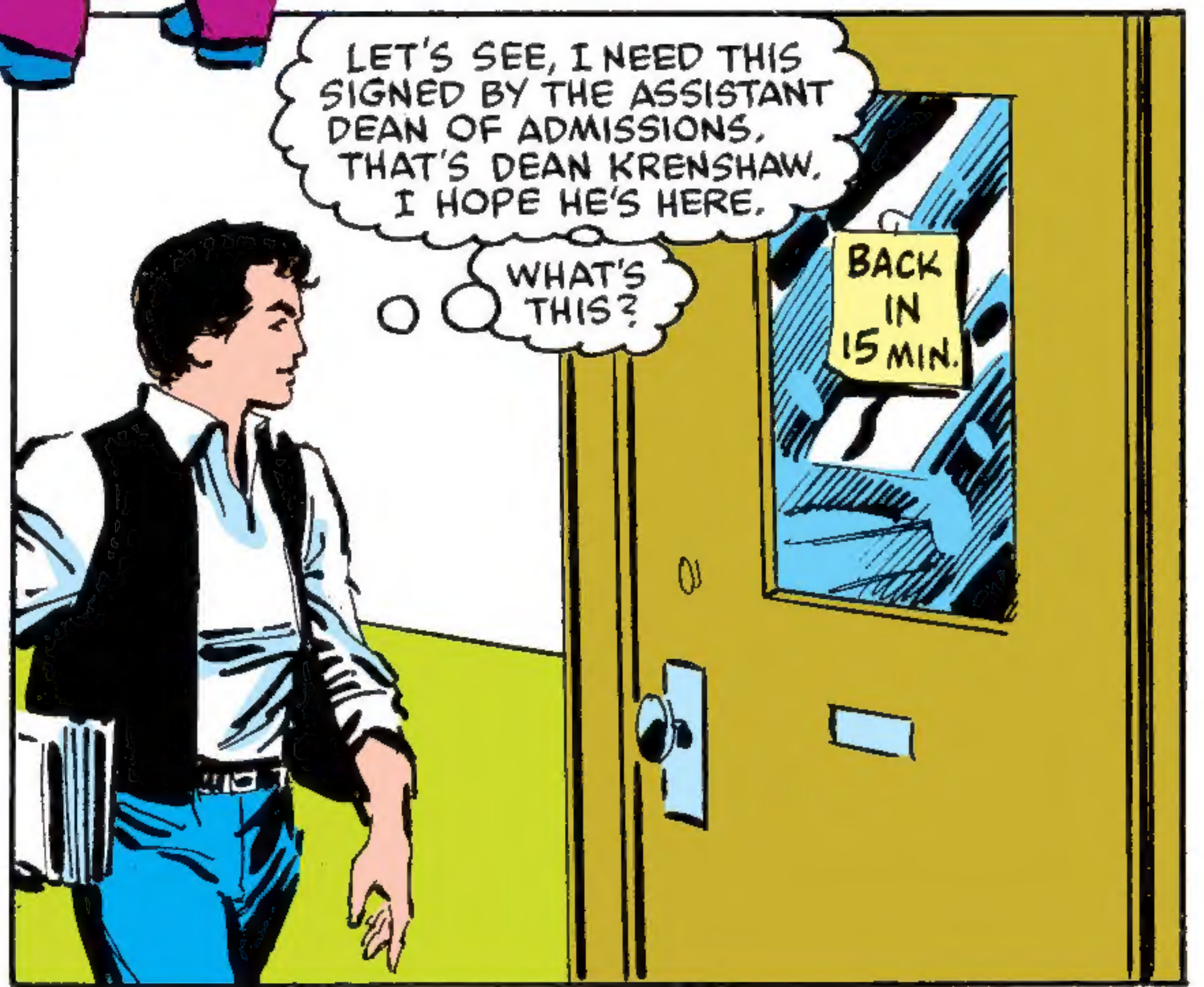
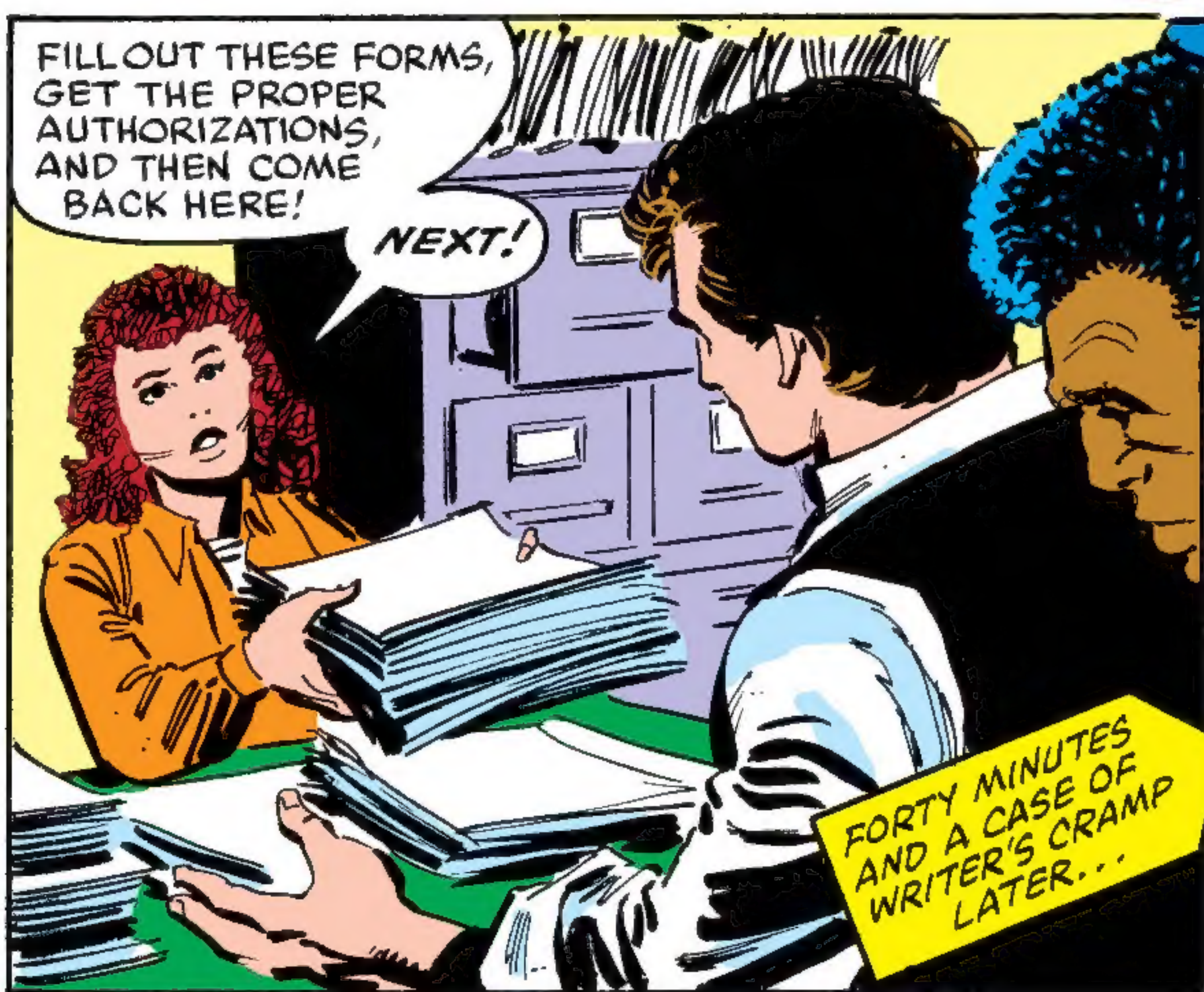
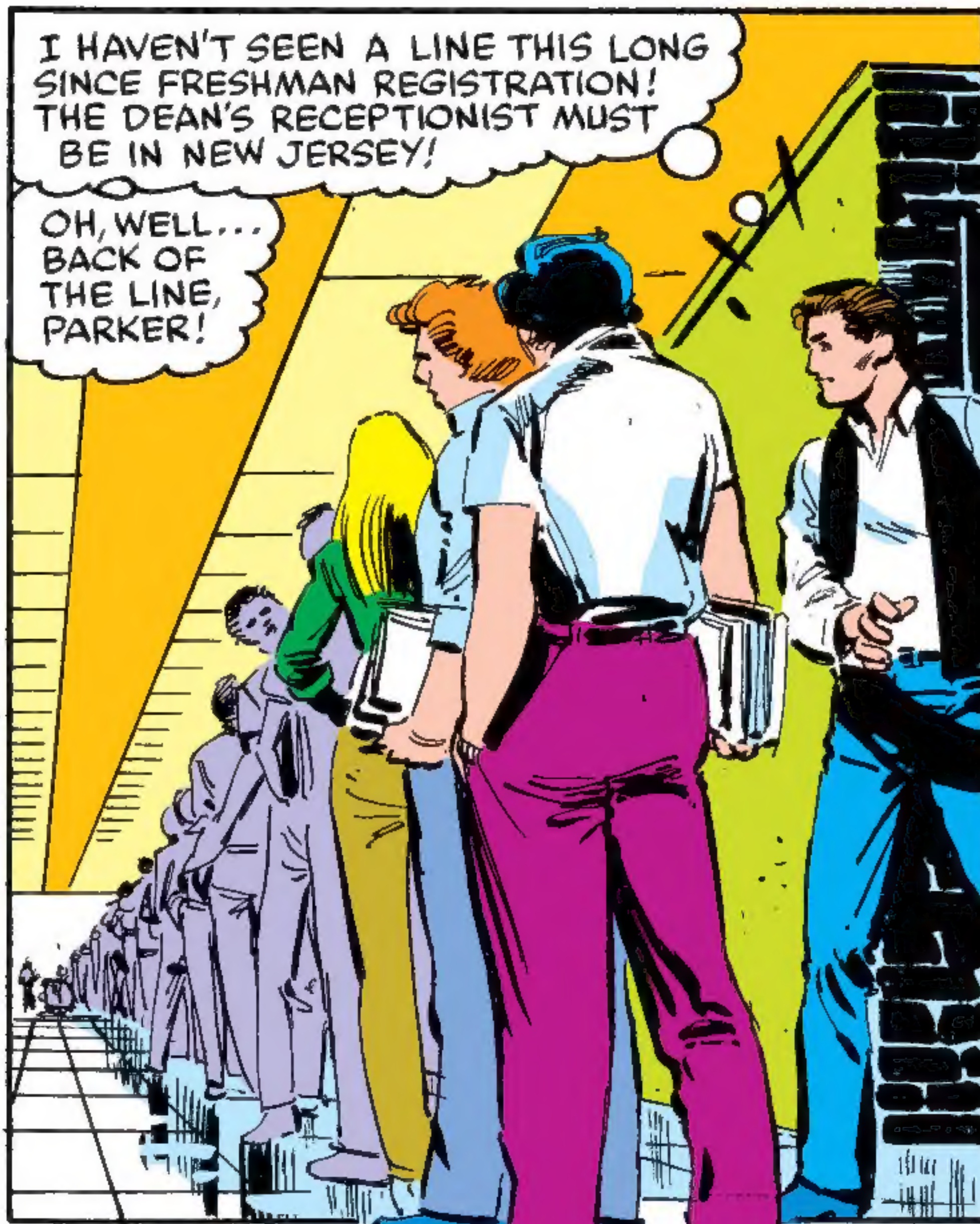


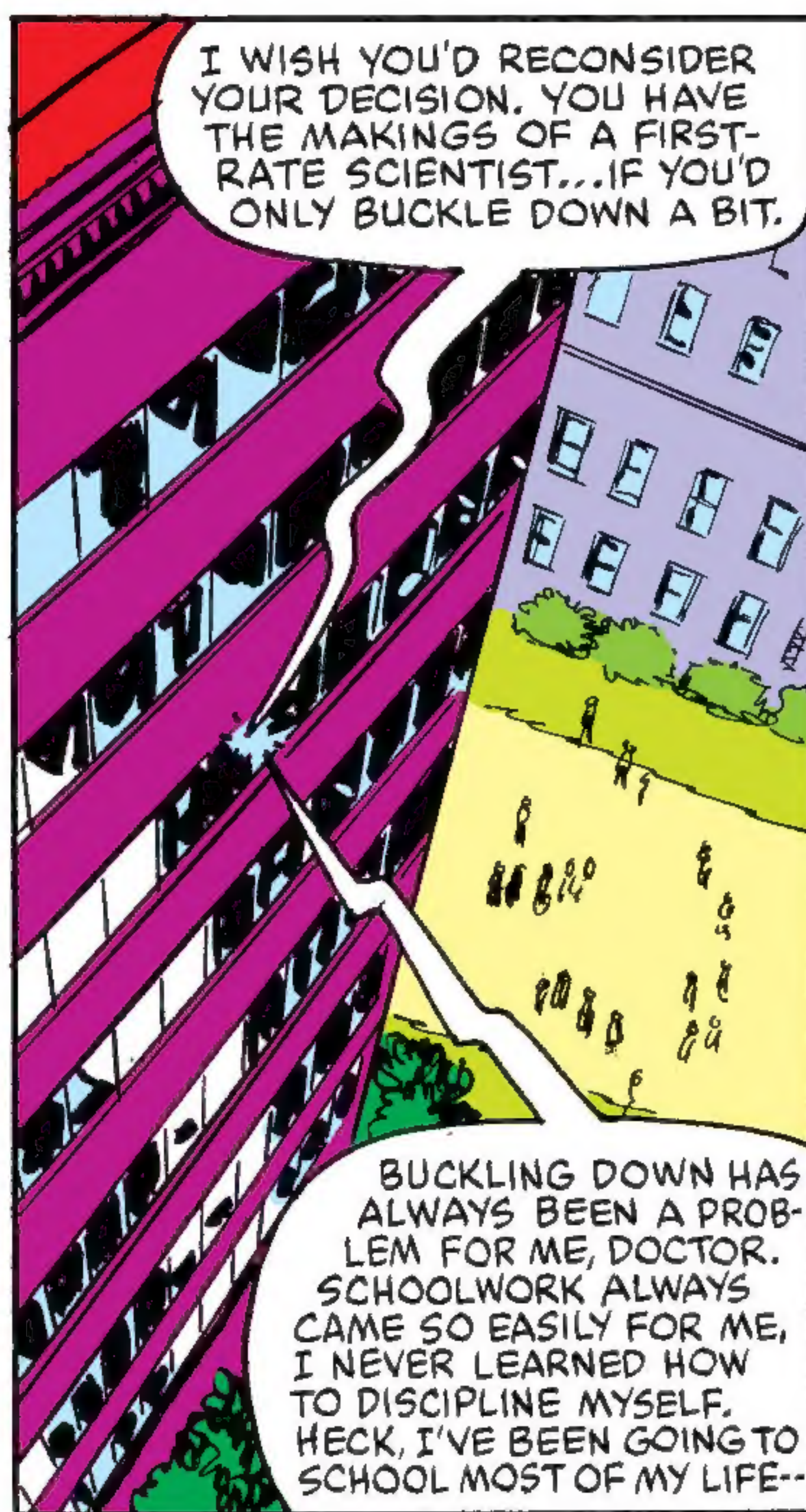
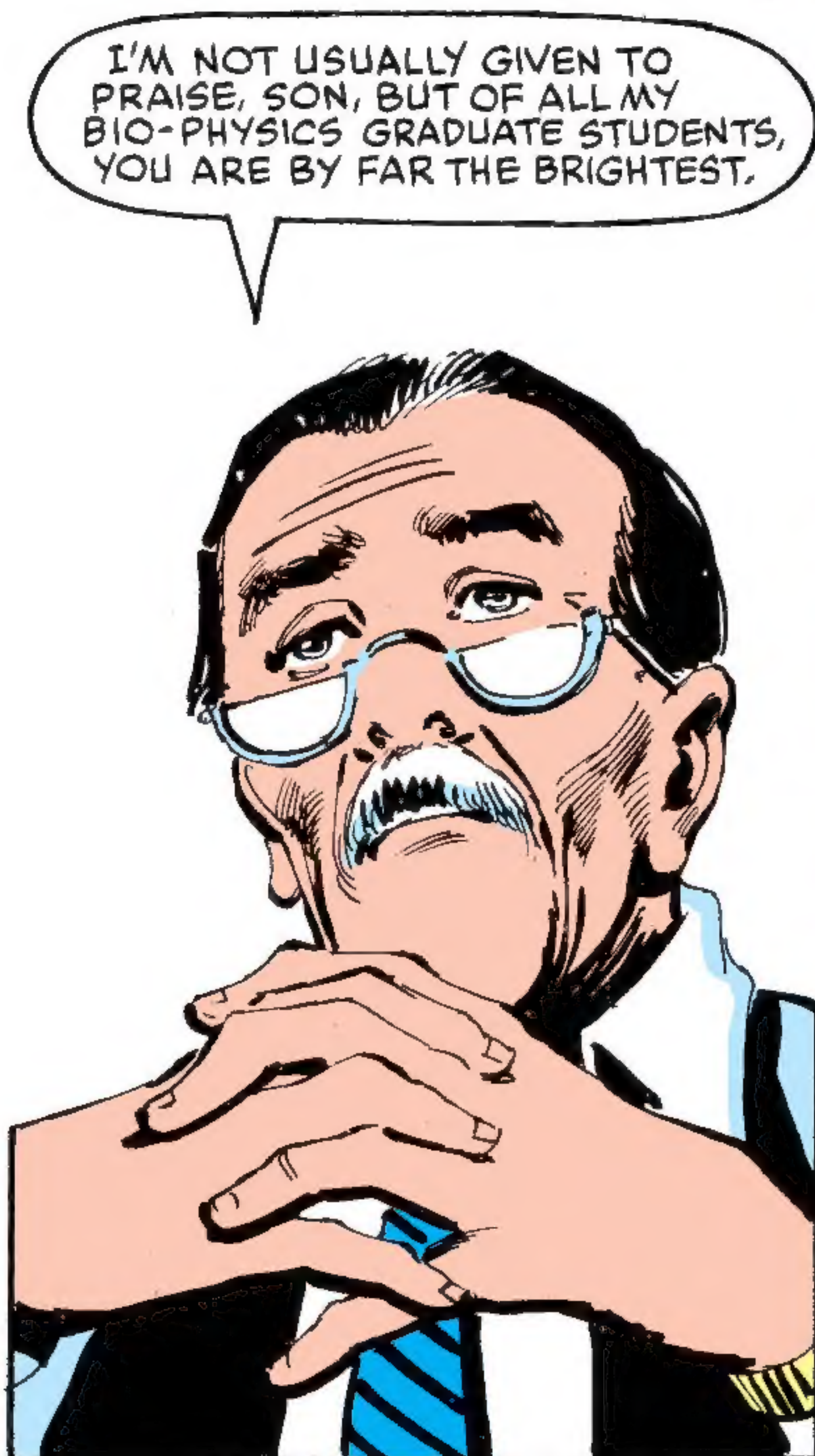
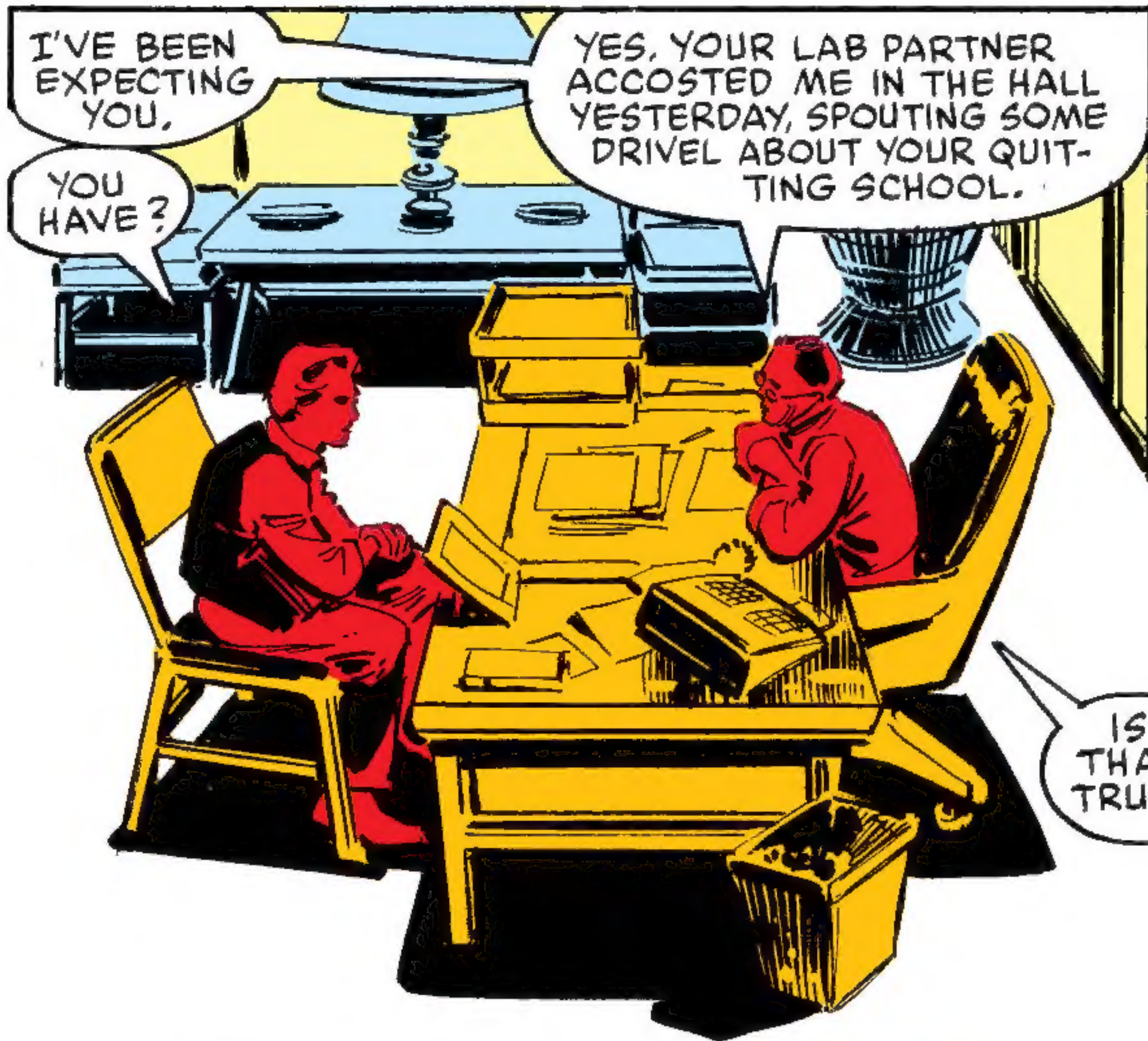
--I HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS! I WISH I COULD DO THIS AS SPIDER-MAN, BUT I CAN'T.

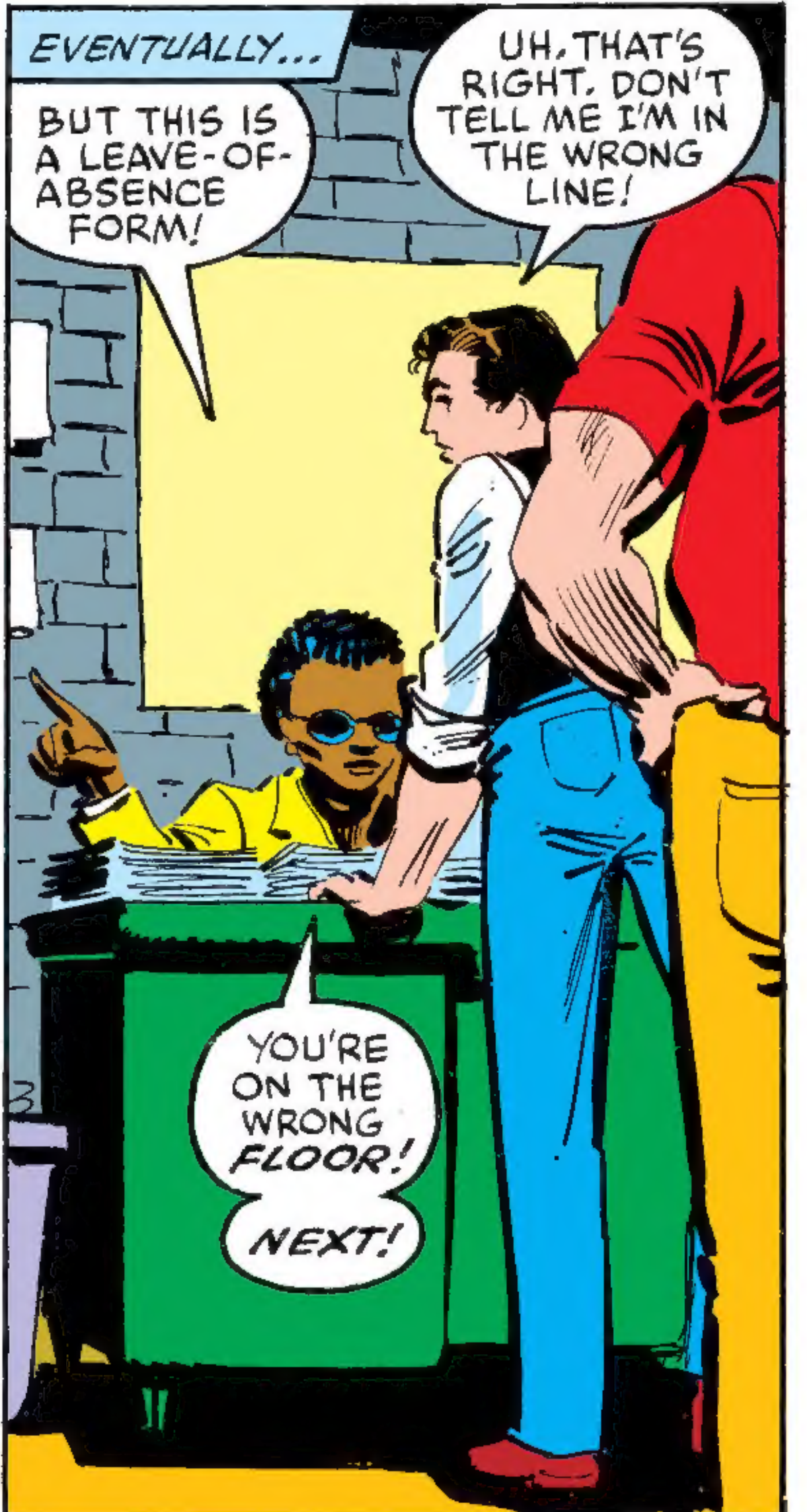
THIS IS STRICTLY PETER PARKER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

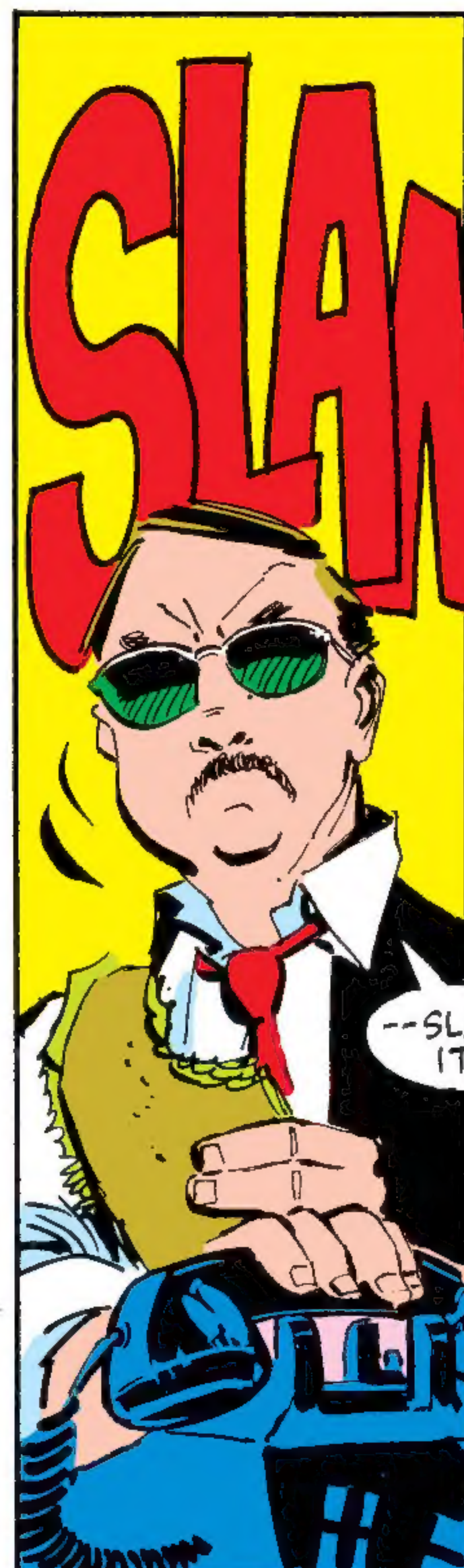
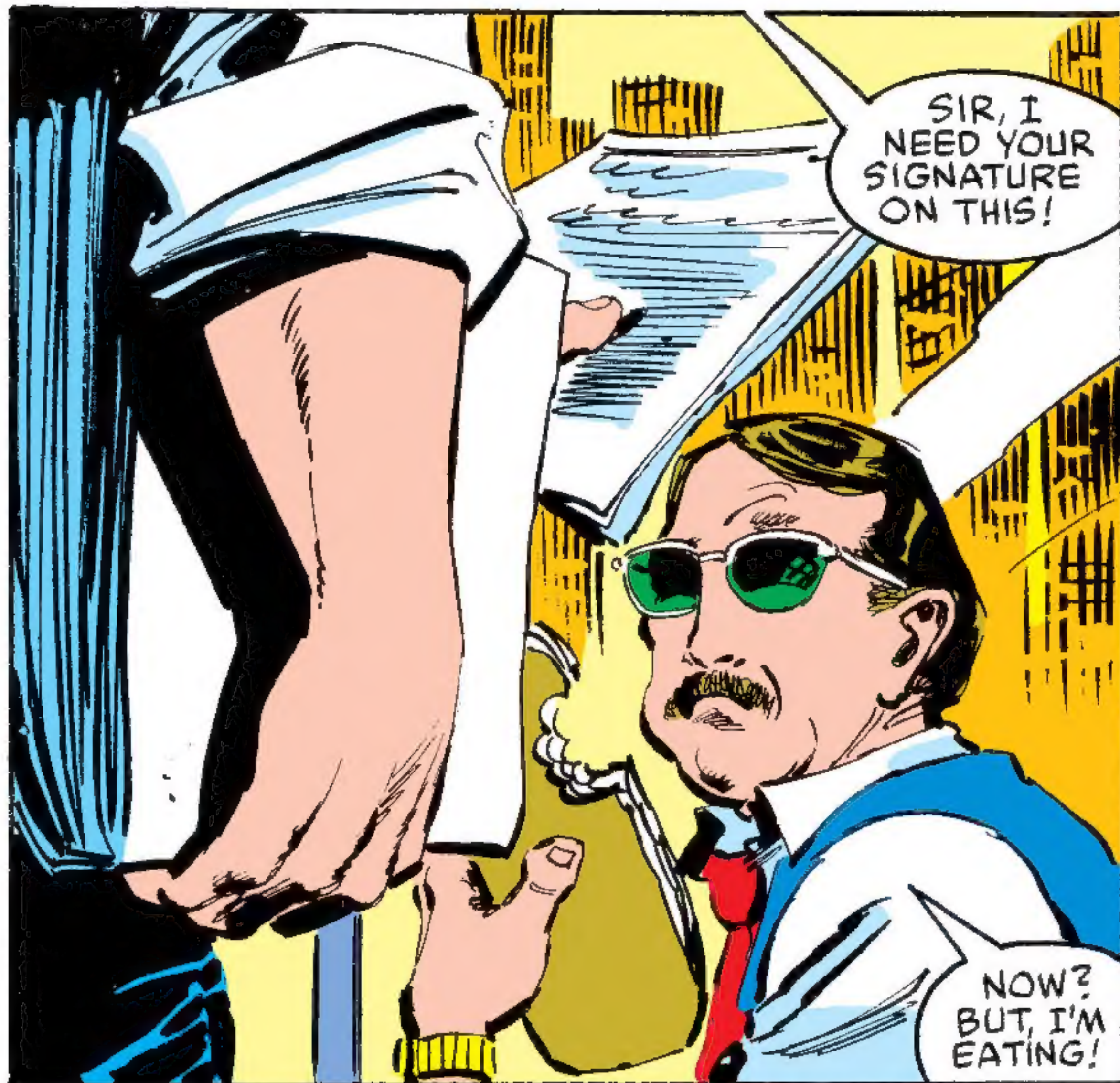
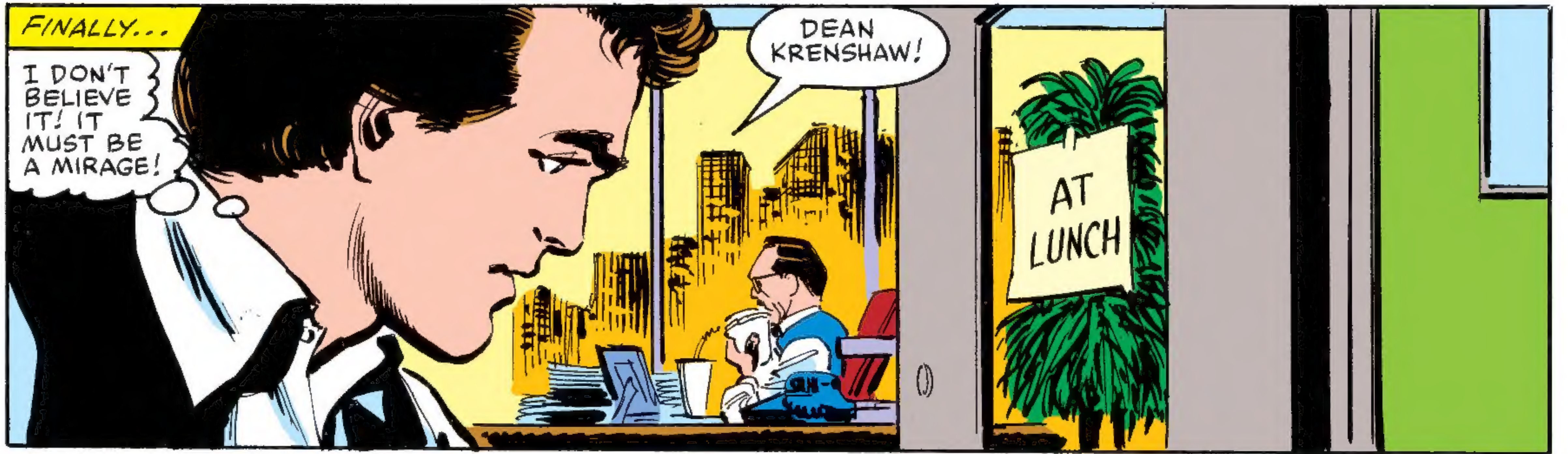


AND FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE, I'M GOING TO DO THINGS BY THE BOOK--NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL THE ORDEAL!









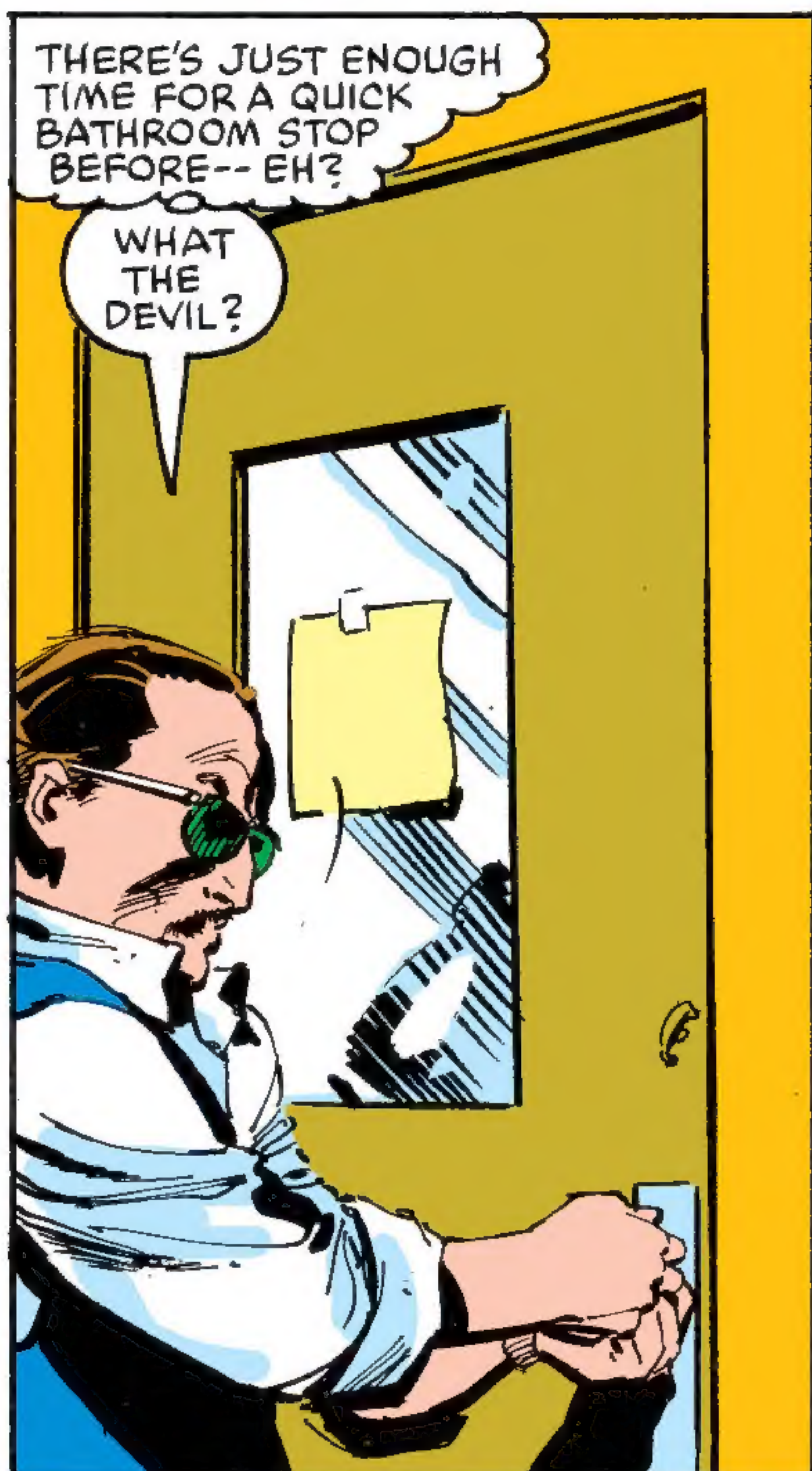


OH! I OUGHT TO BE ARRESTED FOR WHAT I'M THINKING!



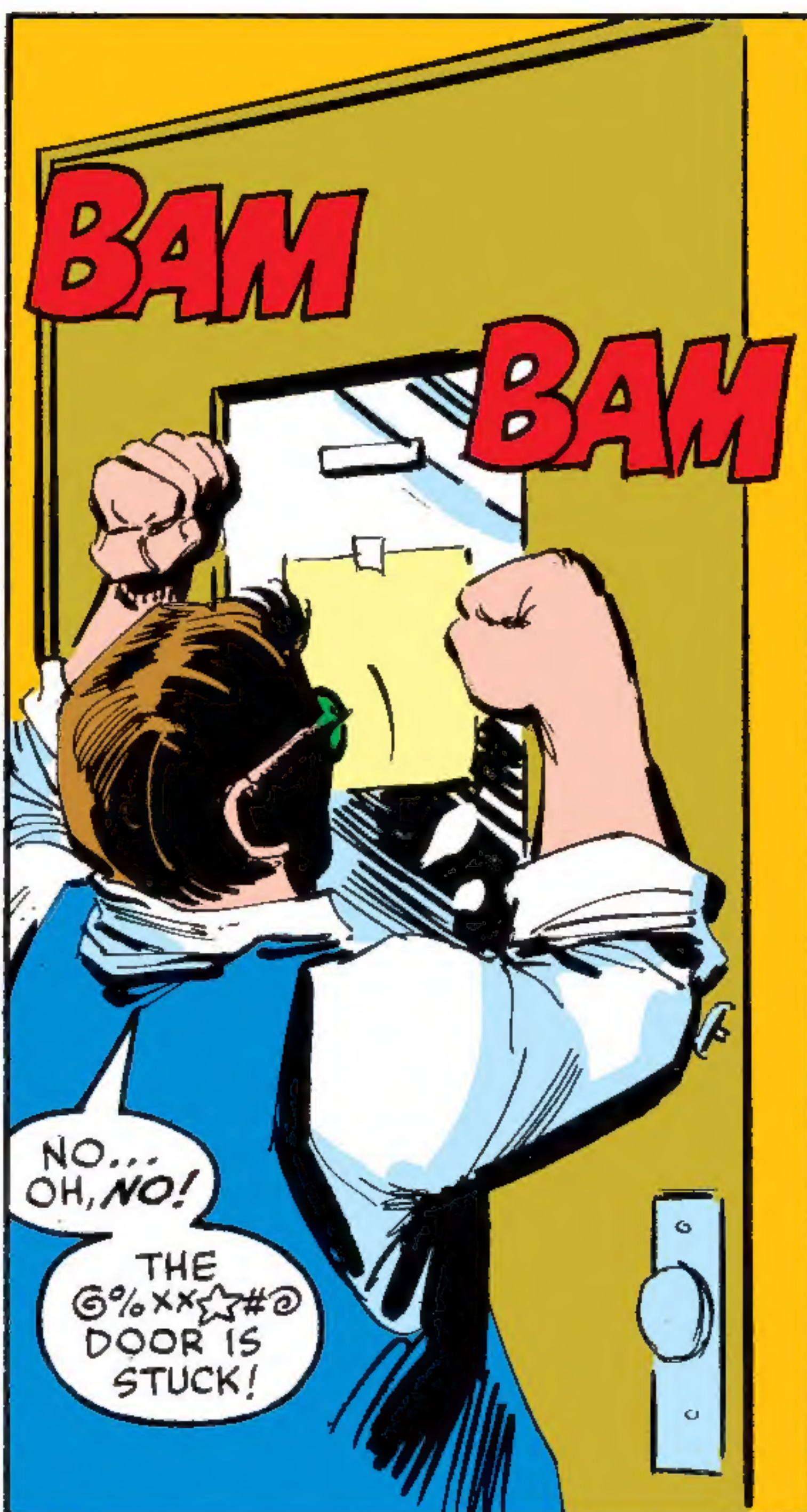
SHORTLY...

U-U-URP!
AH, THAT WAS GOOD!



THERE'S JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR A QUICK BATHROOM STOP BEFORE-- EH?

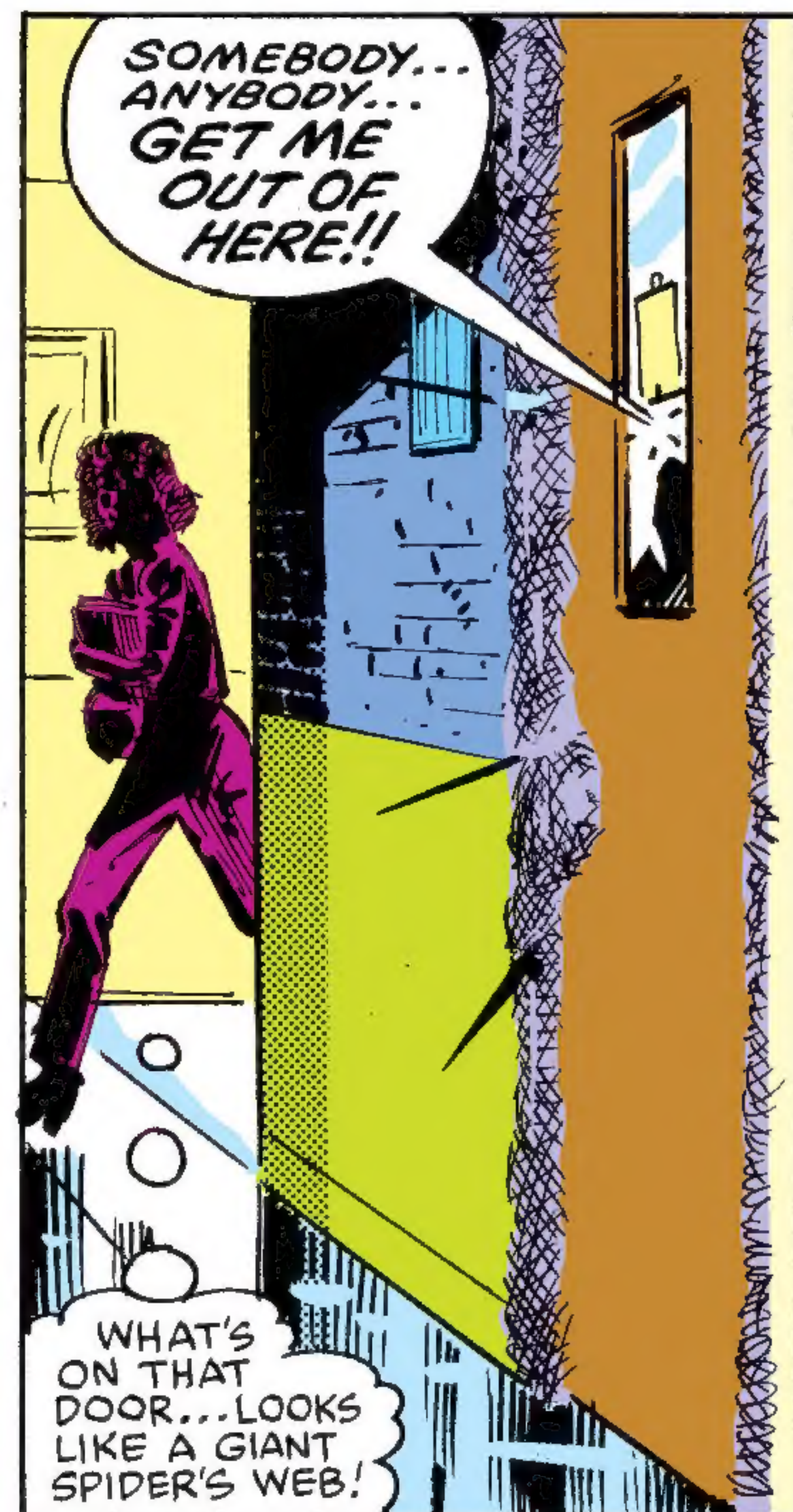
WHAT THE DEVIL?



BAM **BAM**

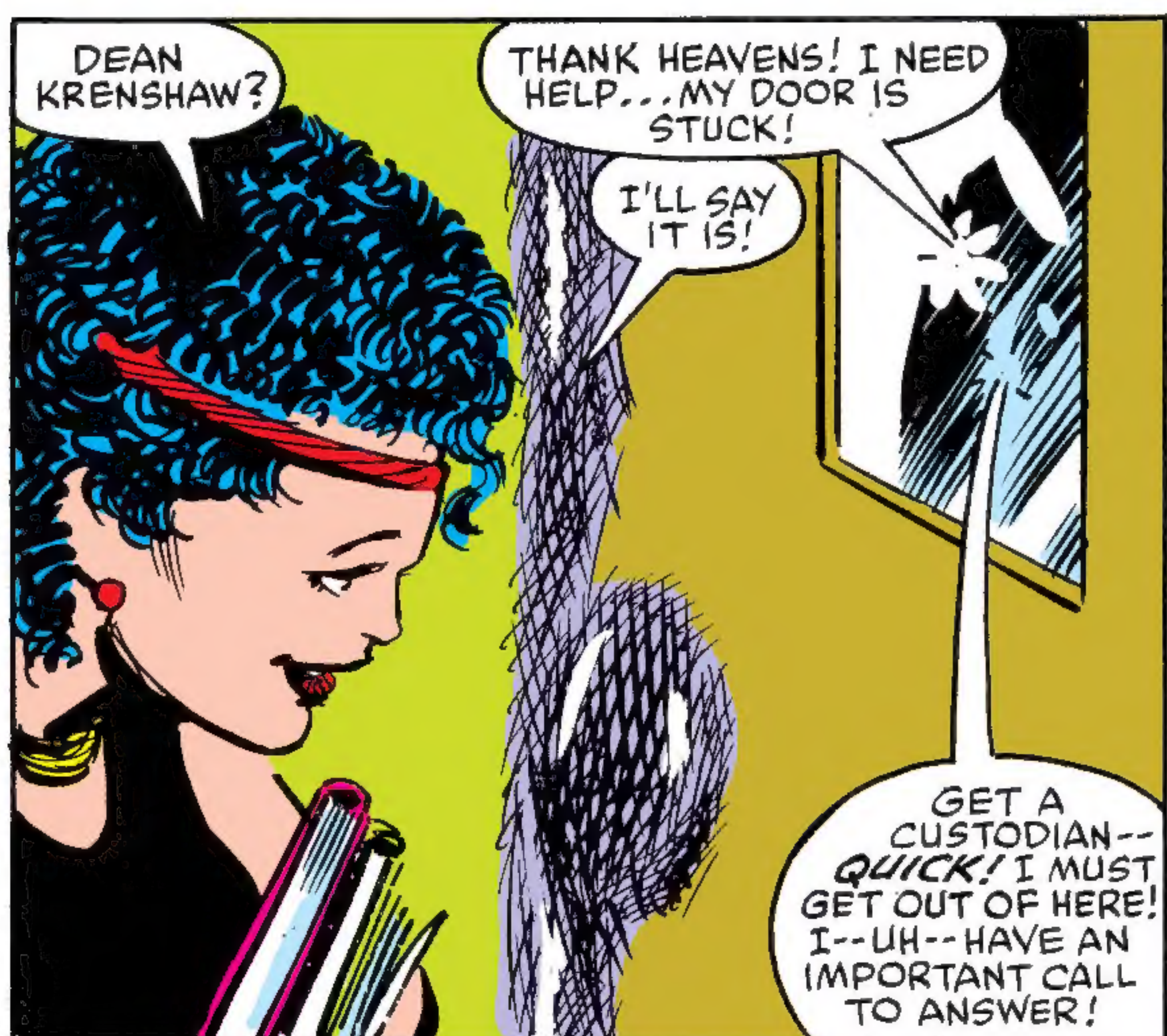
NO... OH, NO!

THE G%XX*#@ DOOR IS STUCK!



SOMEBODY... ANYBODY... GET ME OUT OF HERE!!

WHAT'S ON THAT DOOR... LOOKS LIKE A GIANT SPIDER'S WEB!



DEAN KRENSHAW?

THANK HEAVENS! I NEED HELP... MY DOOR IS STUCK!

I'LL SAY IT IS!

GET A CUSTODIAN-- QUICK! I MUST GET OUT OF HERE! I--UH--HAVE AN IMPORTANT CALL TO ANSWER!

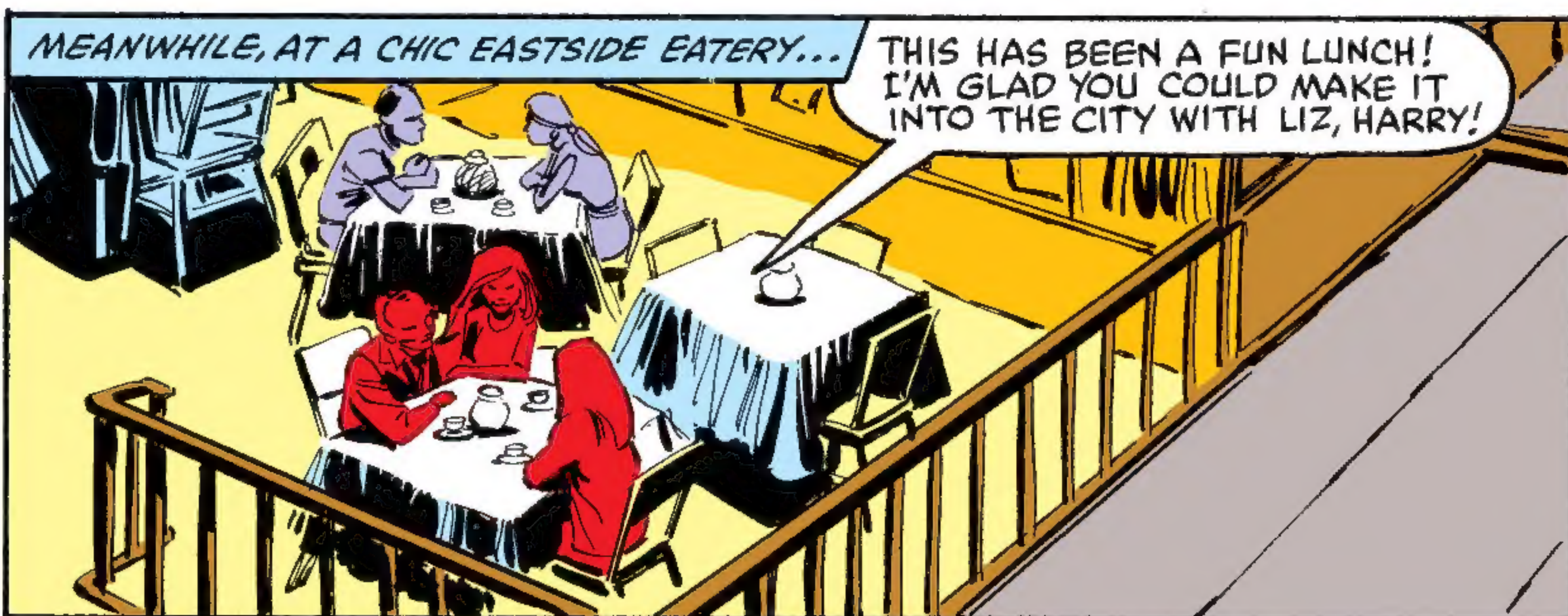


ALL RIGHT, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

BUT FIRST...



MY WEBBING OUGHT TO WEAKEN ENOUGH TO LET HIM OUT IN... OH, AN HOUR OR SO!

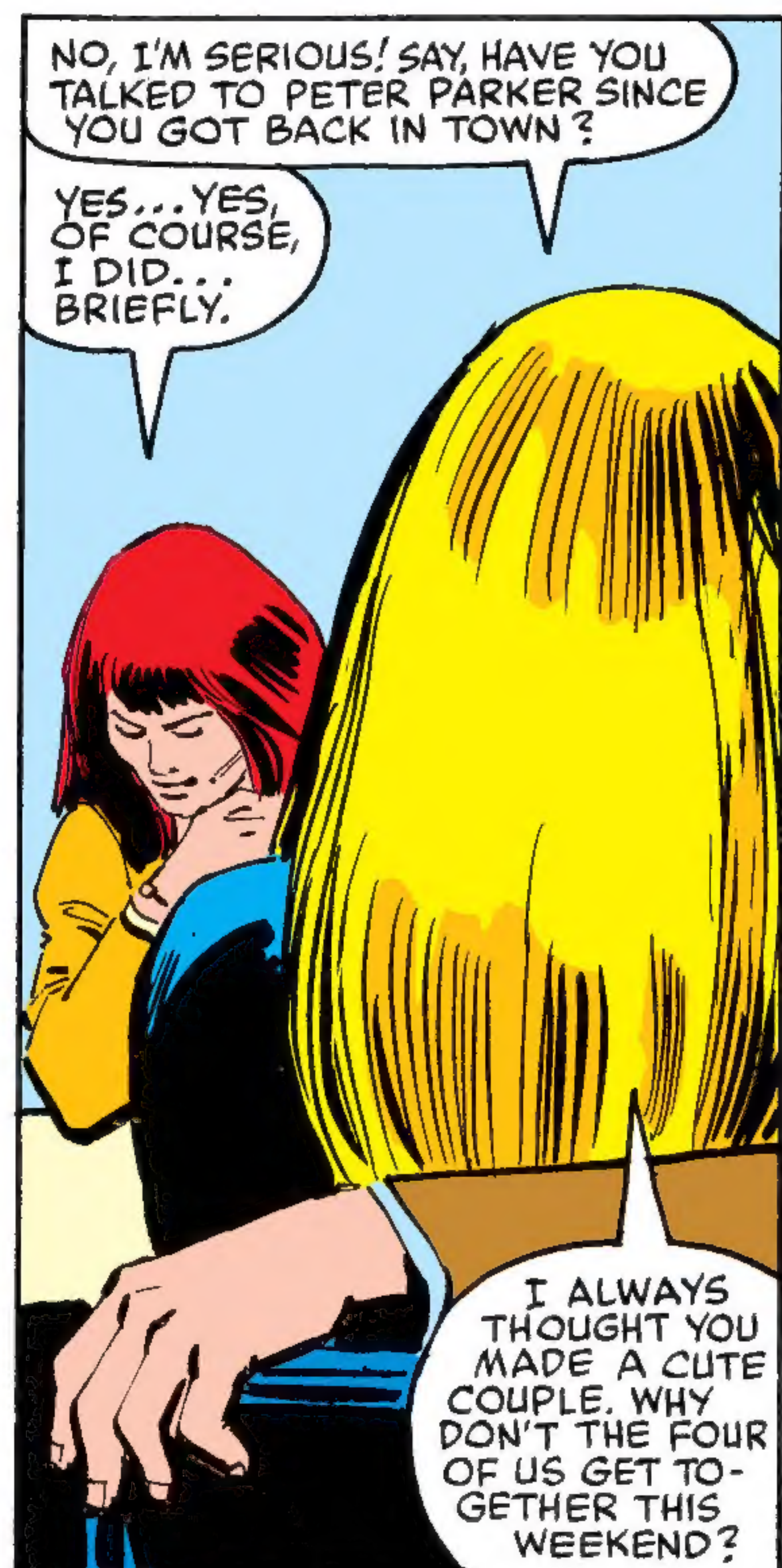


-- BUT I HAVE TO WARN YOU, US WATSONS HAVE A PHOBIA ABOUT TRAVELING INTO DARKEST NEW JERSEY!



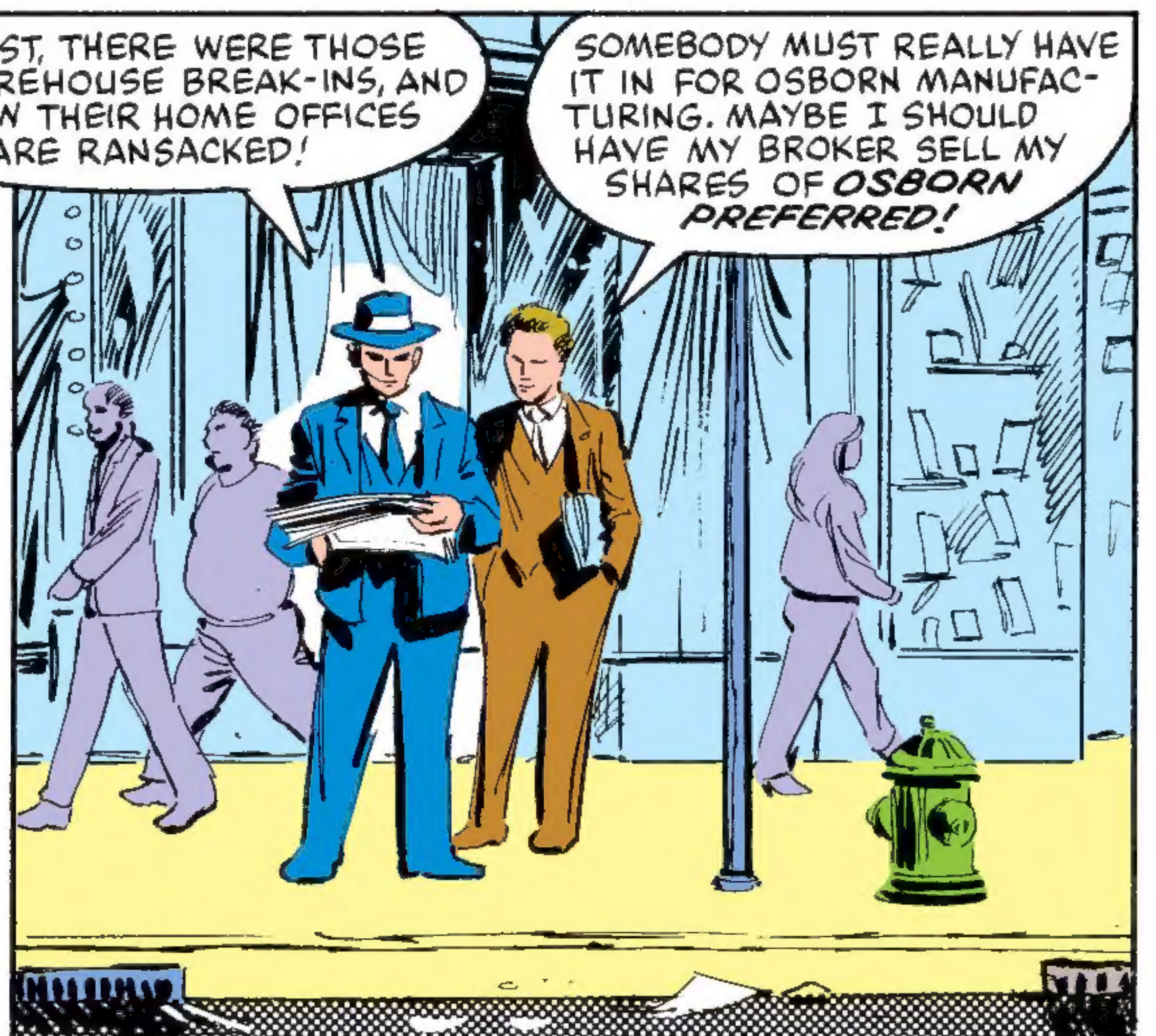
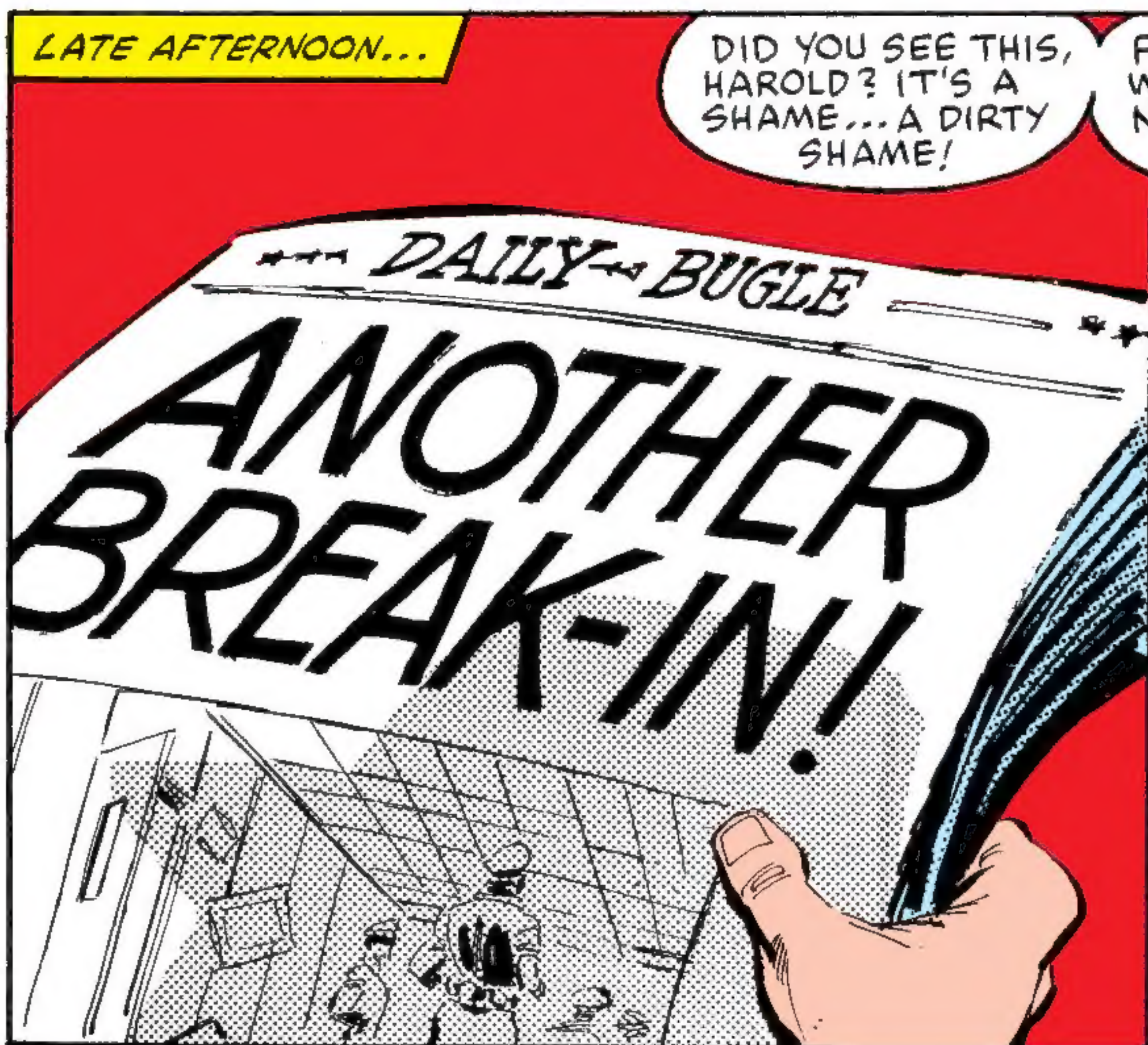
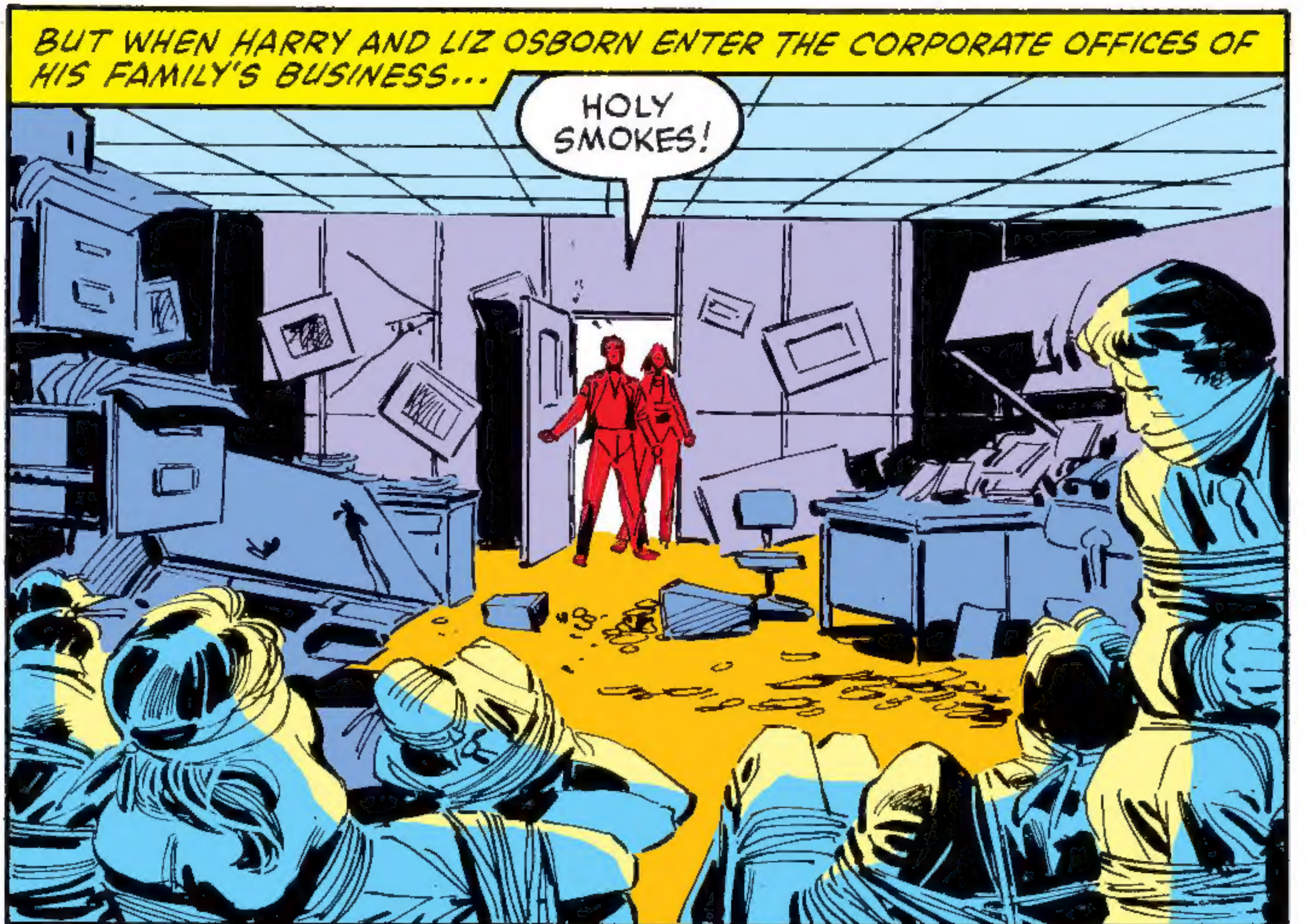
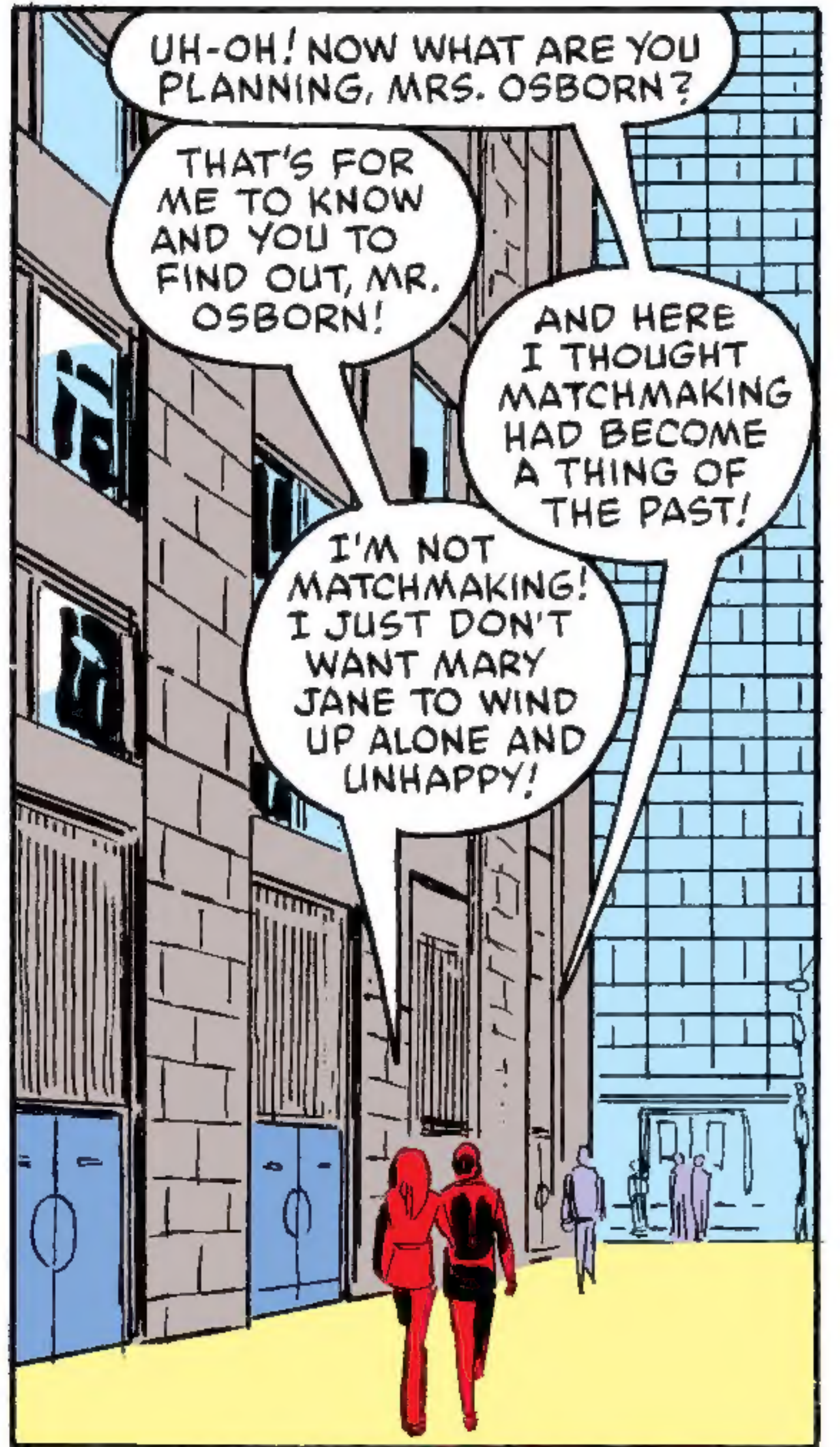
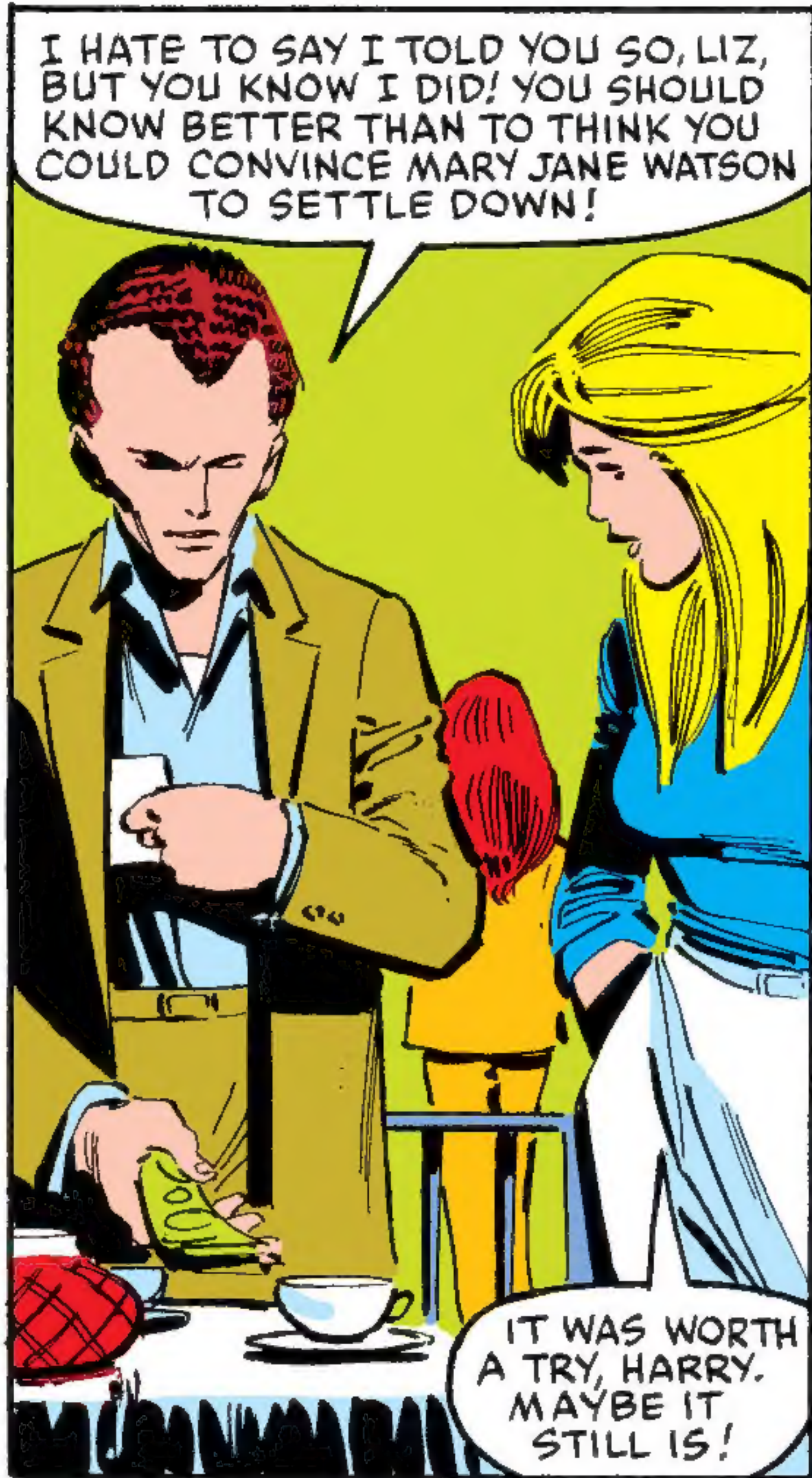
I THINK I'D RATHER VISIT NEW JERSEY.

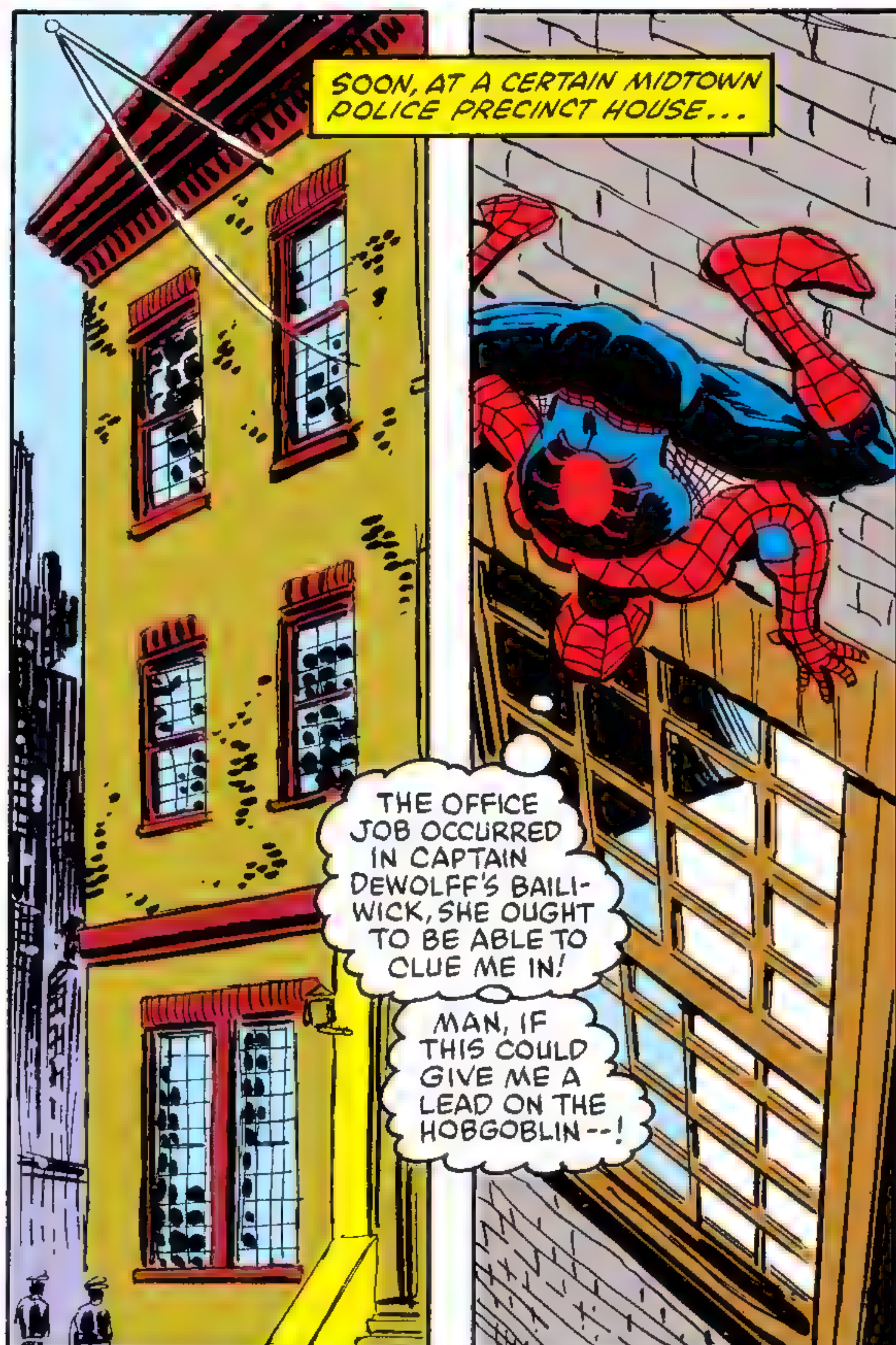
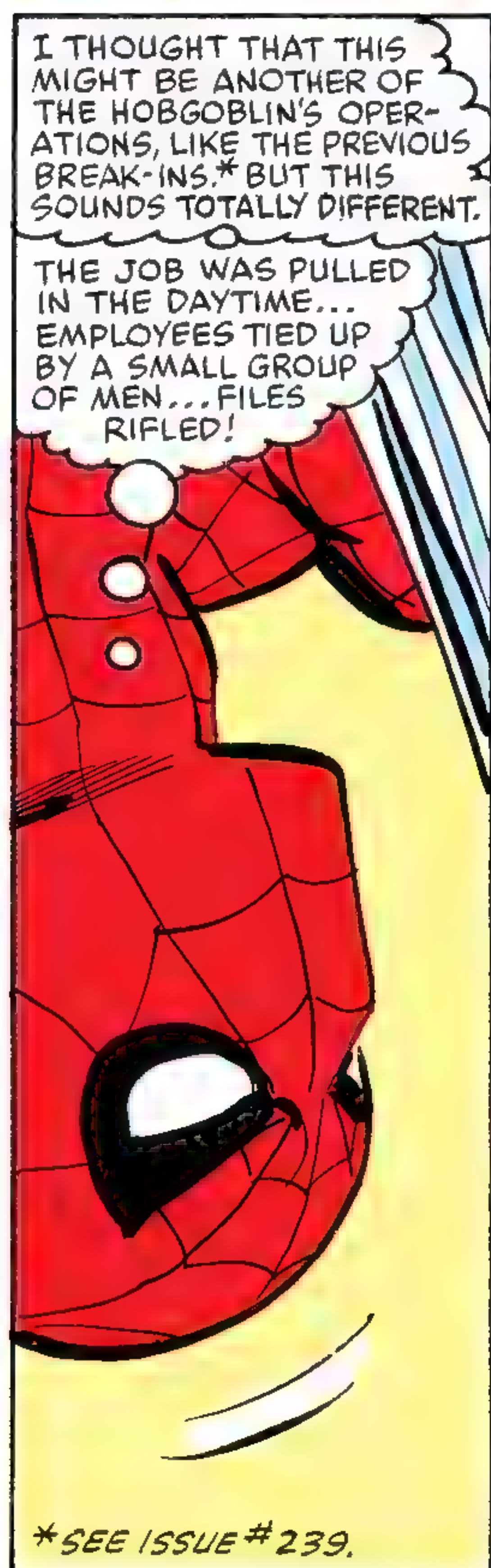
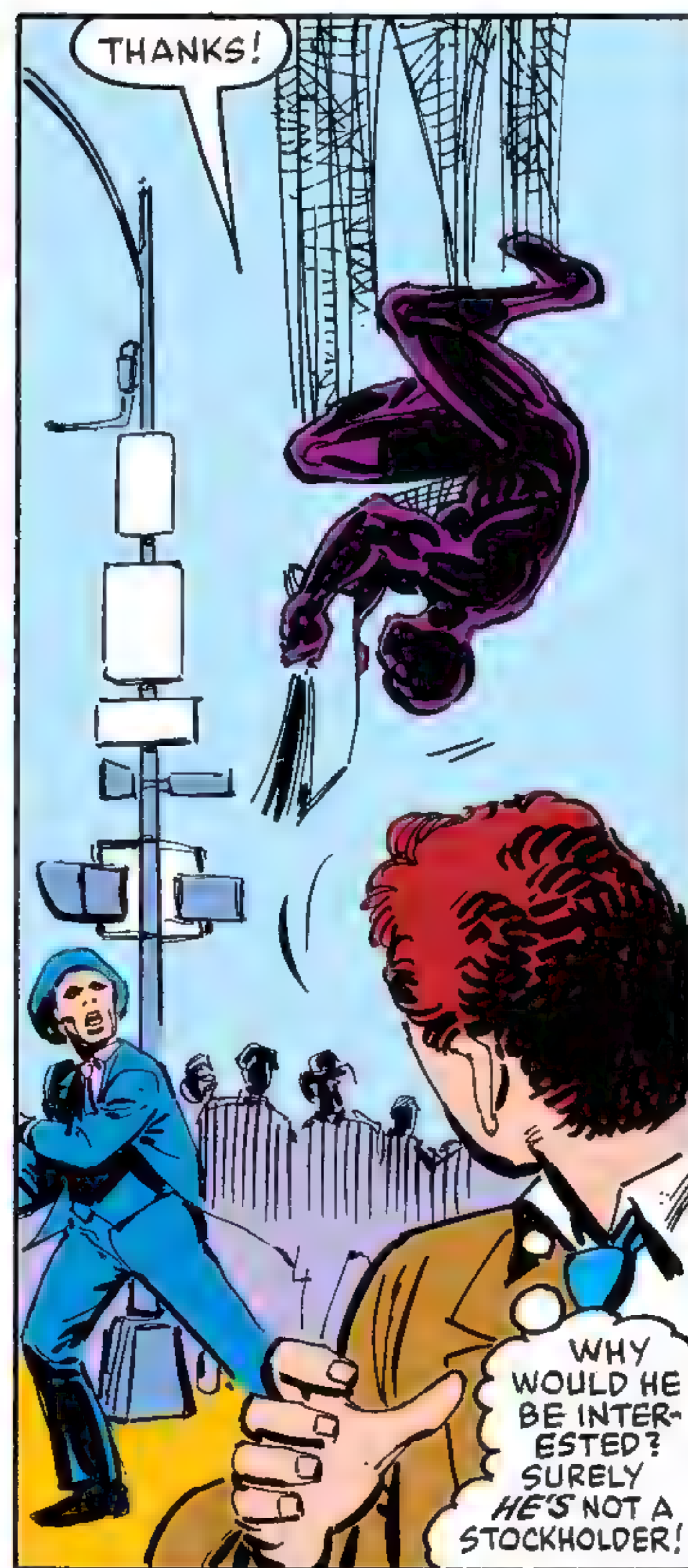
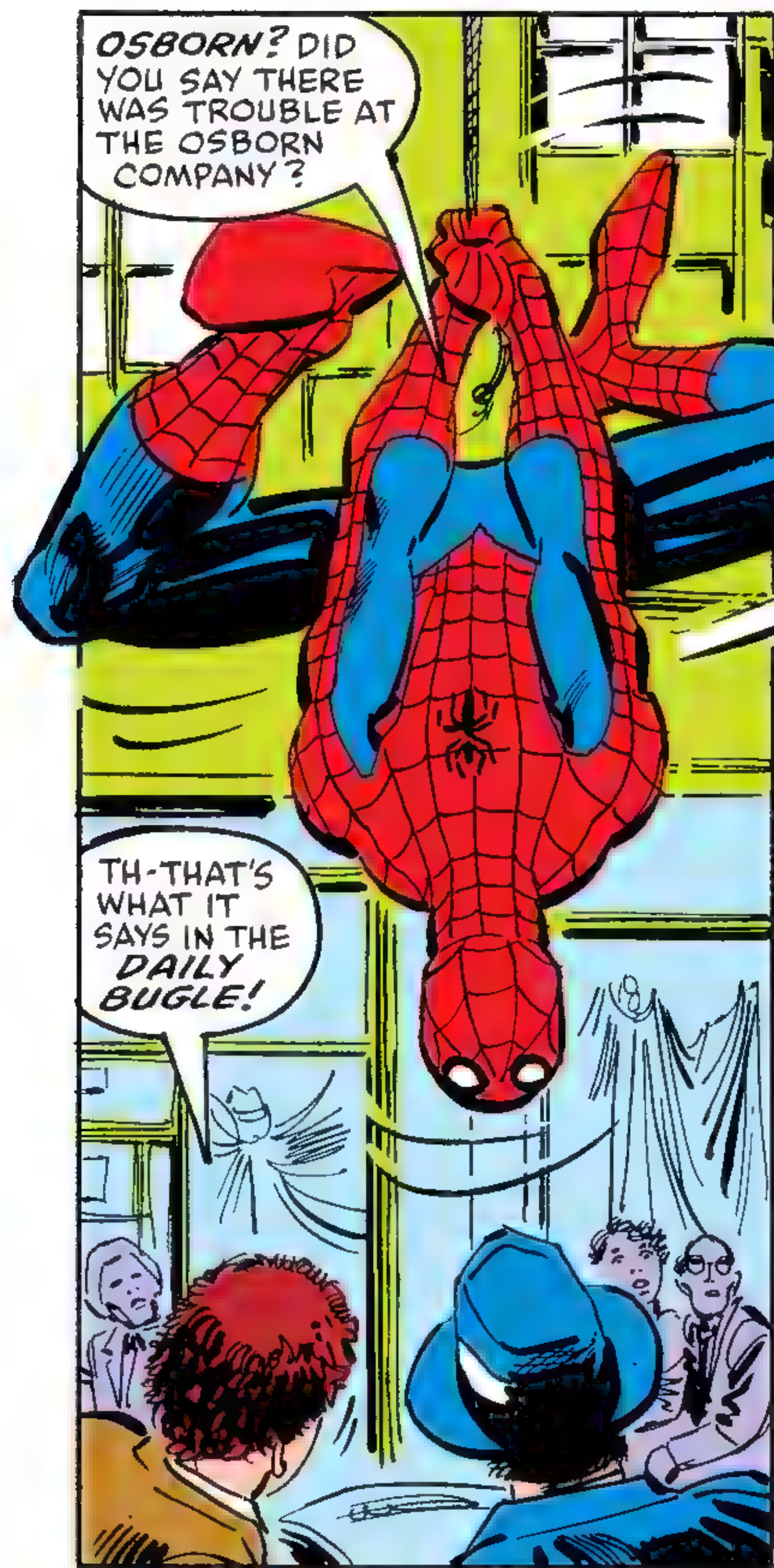
HAH!

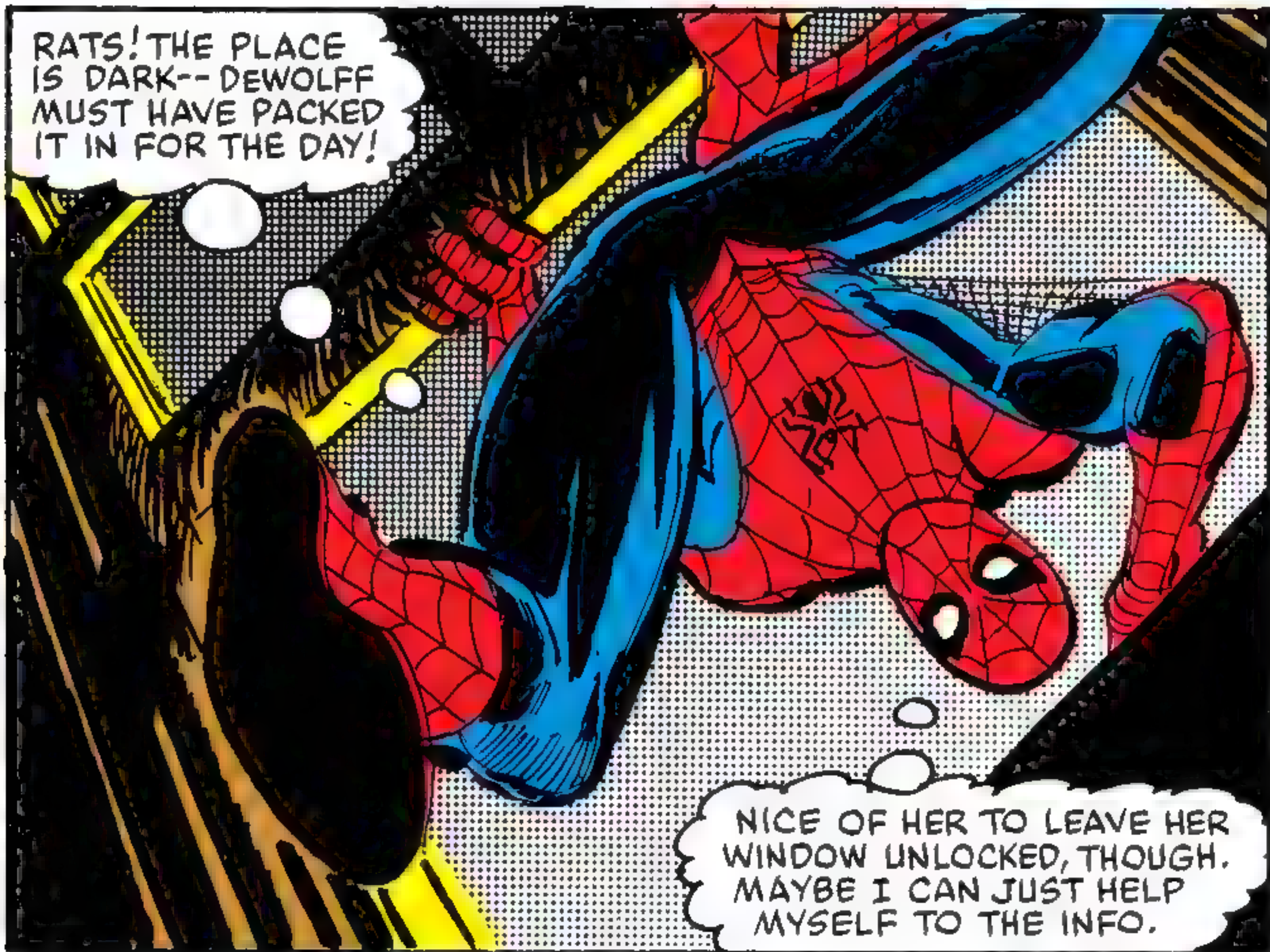


YES... YES, OF COURSE, I DID... BRIEFLY.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU MADE A CUTE COUPLE. WHY DON'T THE FOUR OF US GET TOGETHER THIS WEEKEND?







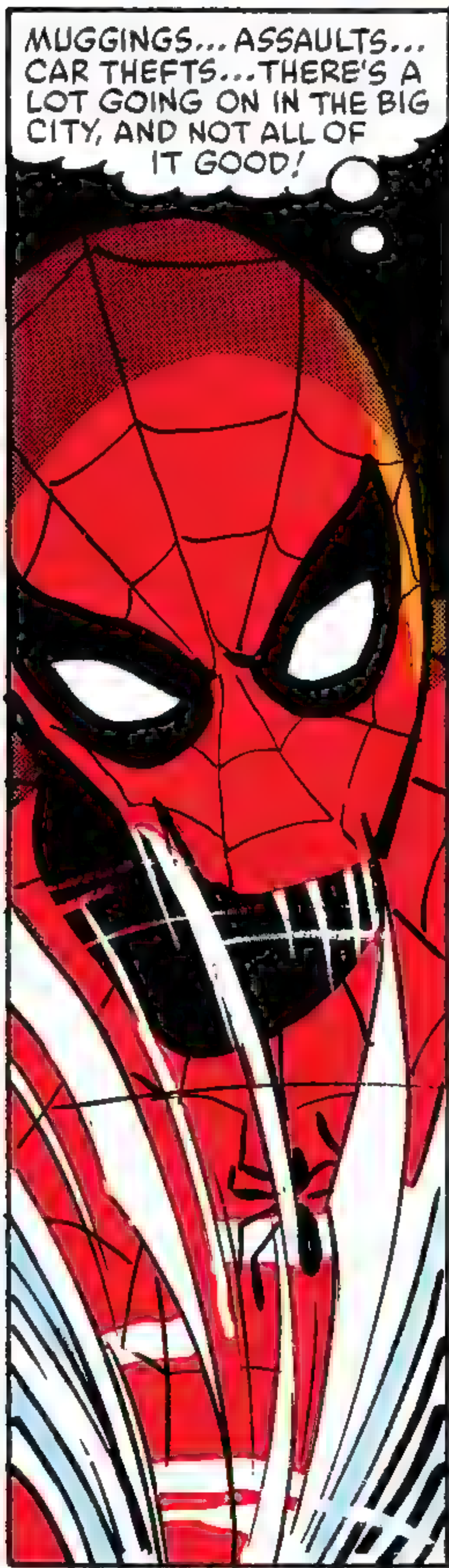
RATS! THE PLACE IS DARK-- DEWOLFF MUST HAVE PACKED IT IN FOR THE DAY!

NICE OF HER TO LEAVE HER WINDOW UNLOCKED, THOUGH. MAYBE I CAN JUST HELP MYSELF TO THE INFO.

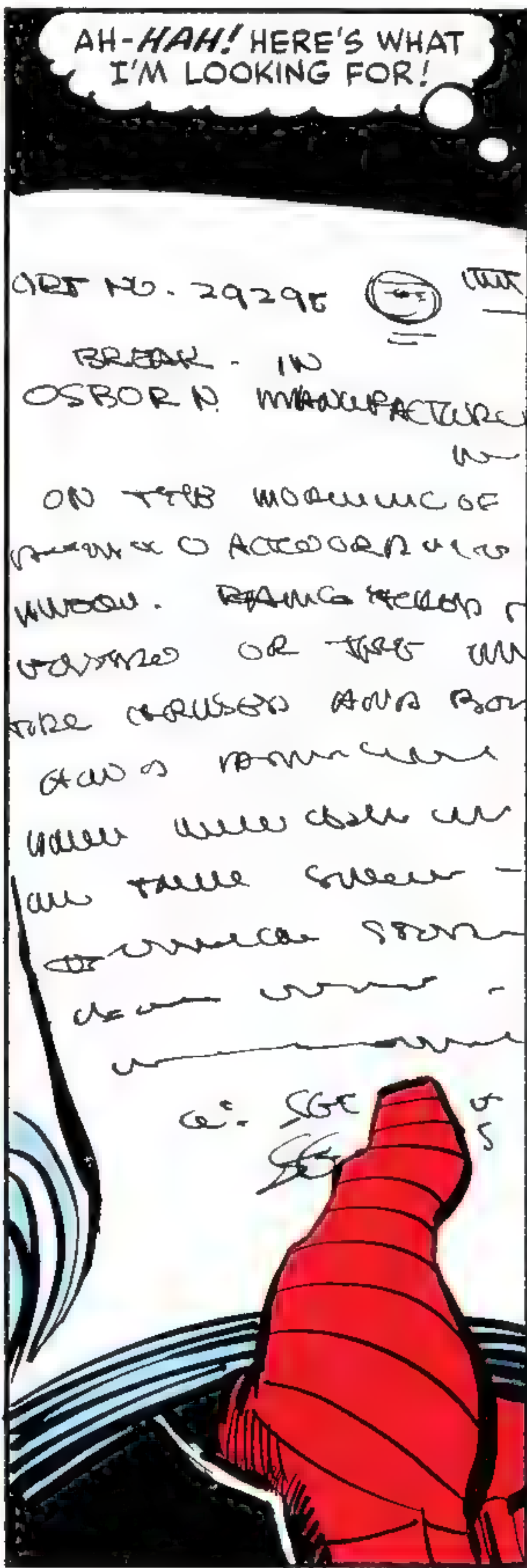


CLIK

YEAH, THIS STACK OF STUFF ON HER DESK LOOKS PROMISING!



MUGGINGS... ASSAULTS... CAR THEFTS... THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN THE BIG CITY, AND NOT ALL OF IT GOOD!



AH-HAH! HERE'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!

QRT NO. 29295
BREAK - IN
OSBORN MANUFACTURE
ON THE MORNING OF
THURSDAY OCTOBER 12
WINDOW. RANGE YELLOW
VEHICLES OR THE UN
FIRE CRUSERS AND BO
GAS IS BURNING
WALLS WILL CRACK IN
ALL THESE SPOTS
...
a. SGT



MEANWHILE, JUST OUTSIDE...

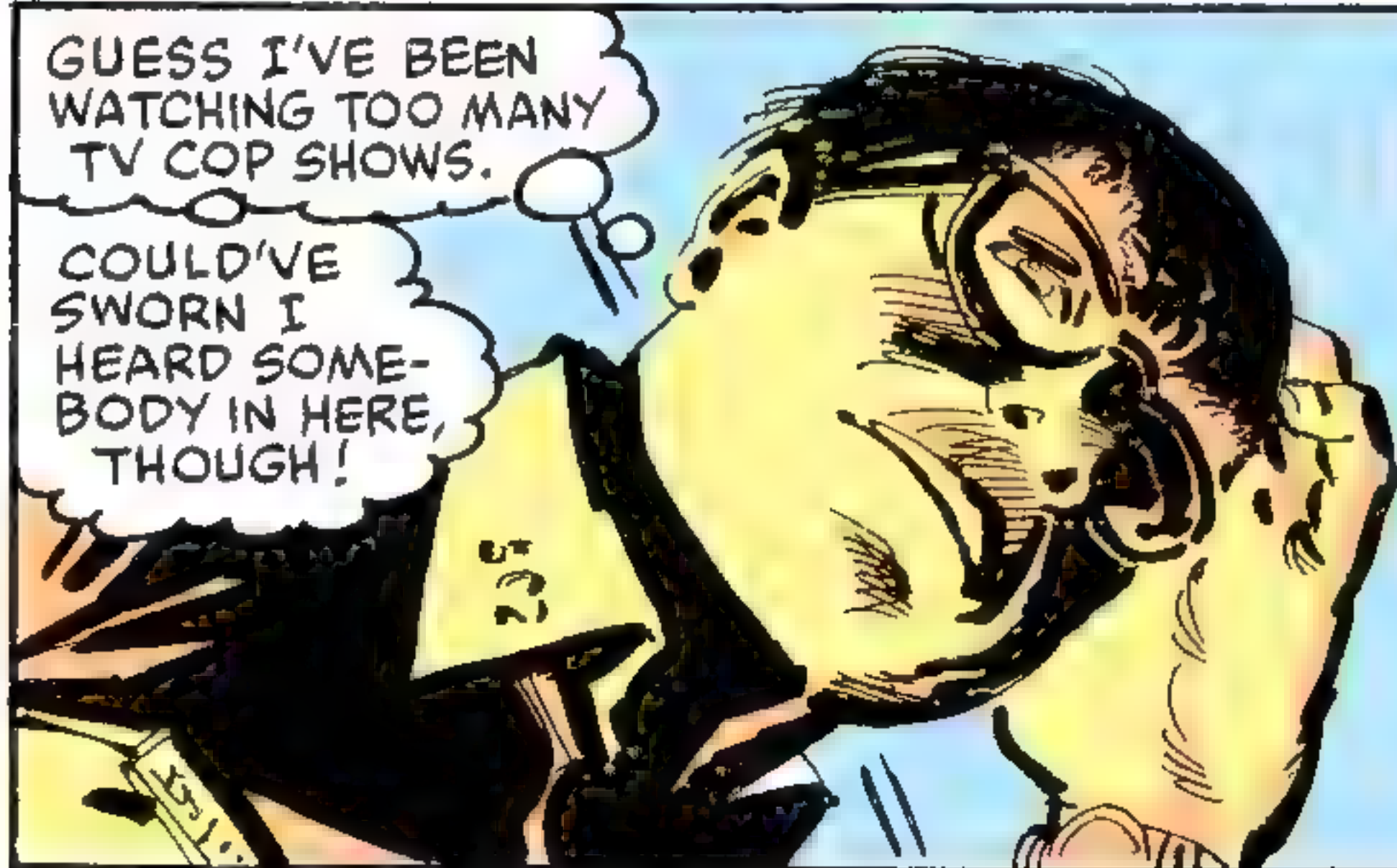
WHY'S THERE STILL A LIGHT ON IN THE CAPTAIN'S OFFICE? SHE LEFT HOURS AGO!

IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S SNOOPING AROUND IN THERE!



ALL RIGHT, PUT UP YOUR HANDS AND--

-- HUH?



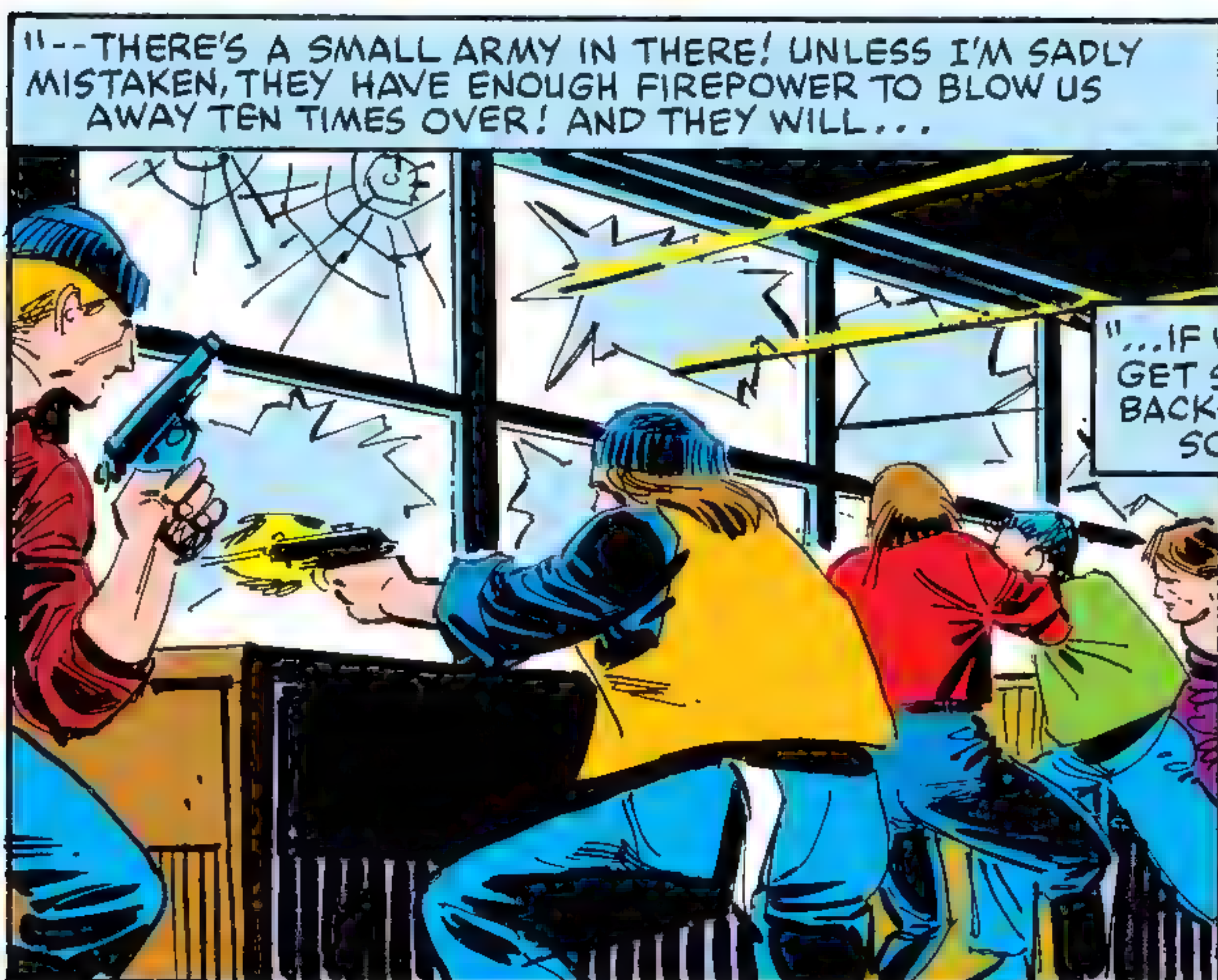
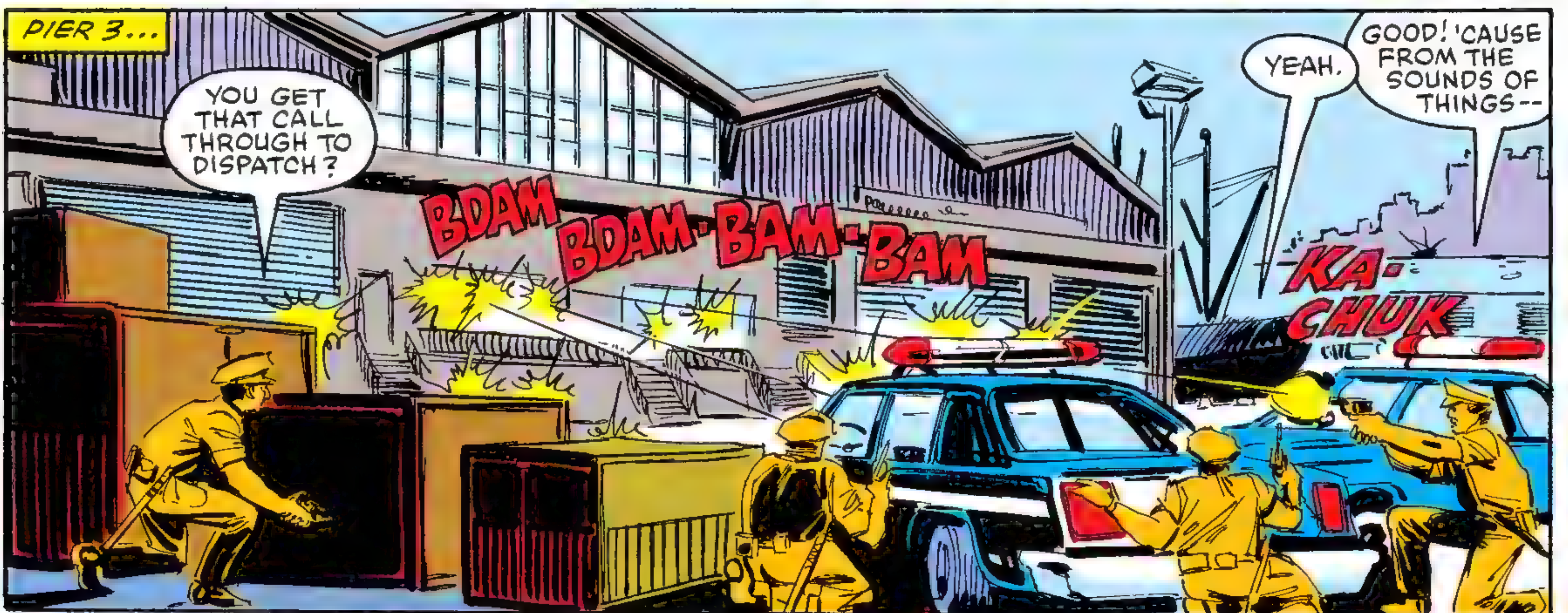
GUESS I'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO MANY TV COP SHOWS.

COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOMEBODY IN HERE, THOUGH!



THIS IS ODD! ACCORDING TO THE STAFF, THE ONLY THING TAKEN FROM THE OSBORN COMPANY OFFICES WERE FILES ON CHEMICAL STORAGE ... ALL THE INVENTORY REPORTS FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT THAT STUFF?



TUMBLING THROUGH THE AIR, MANY STORIES ABOVE THE STREETS, SPIDER-MAN LANDS UNSEEN ON THE ROOF OF THE DOCKSIDE WAREHOUSE...

WITH ALL THE SHOOTING GOING ON DOWNSTAIRS, I DOUBT IF ANYONE HEARD ME LAND.

WELL, IT'S NICE TO BE RIGHT ABOUT SOMETHING! THAT'S A RATHER *BLATANT* CHEMICAL THEFT IN PROGRESS! THESE BOYS HAVE NO SUBTLETY AT ALL.

BUT THEN, NEITHER DO I!

ALL RIGHT, THIS IS A CITIZEN'S ARREST! I SEE AT LEAST SIX CASES OF ILLEGAL USE OF FIREARMS!

EEYAAH!

AND ONE VIOLATION OF LOCAL NOISE ORDINANCES!

SPIDER-MAN!

PLUG 'IM!

NO, DON'T SHOOT! YOU'LL HIT ONE OF OUR GUYS!

WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'!

THERE'S MORE'A US THAN THERE IS'A HIM!

LET'S GET 'IM!



ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE SHOOTING STOPPED...WHAT GIVES?

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S CRAZY, BUT--



"--IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT'S BROKEN OUT IN THERE!"

SPIDER-MAN, HUH? BIG @#xx☆%© DEAL! HE DON'T SEEM LIKE MUCH NOW!



YEAH, I READ WHERE HE'S S'POSED TO BE AS STRONG AS TEN MEN!

TOO BAD THERE'S MORE'N TEN OF US!



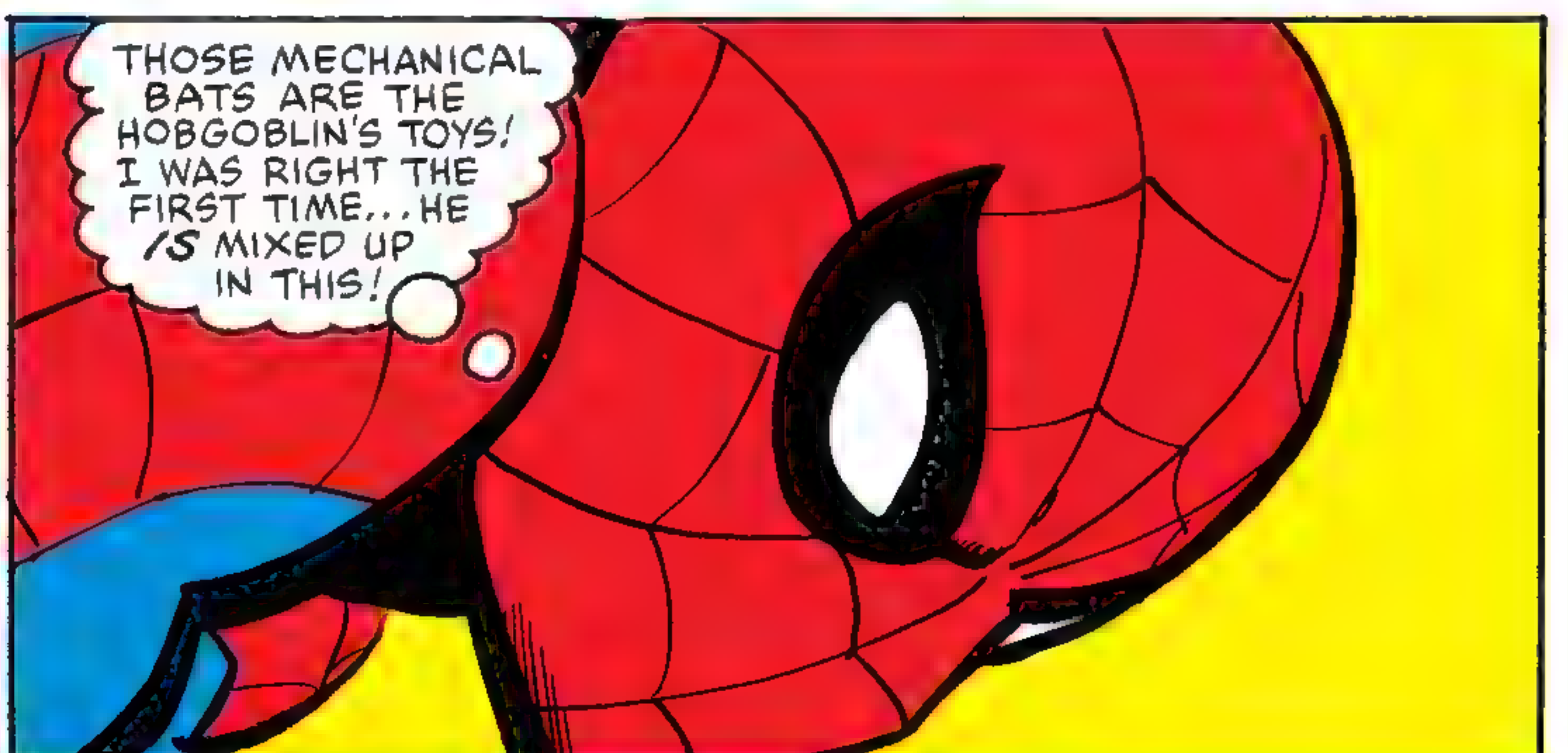
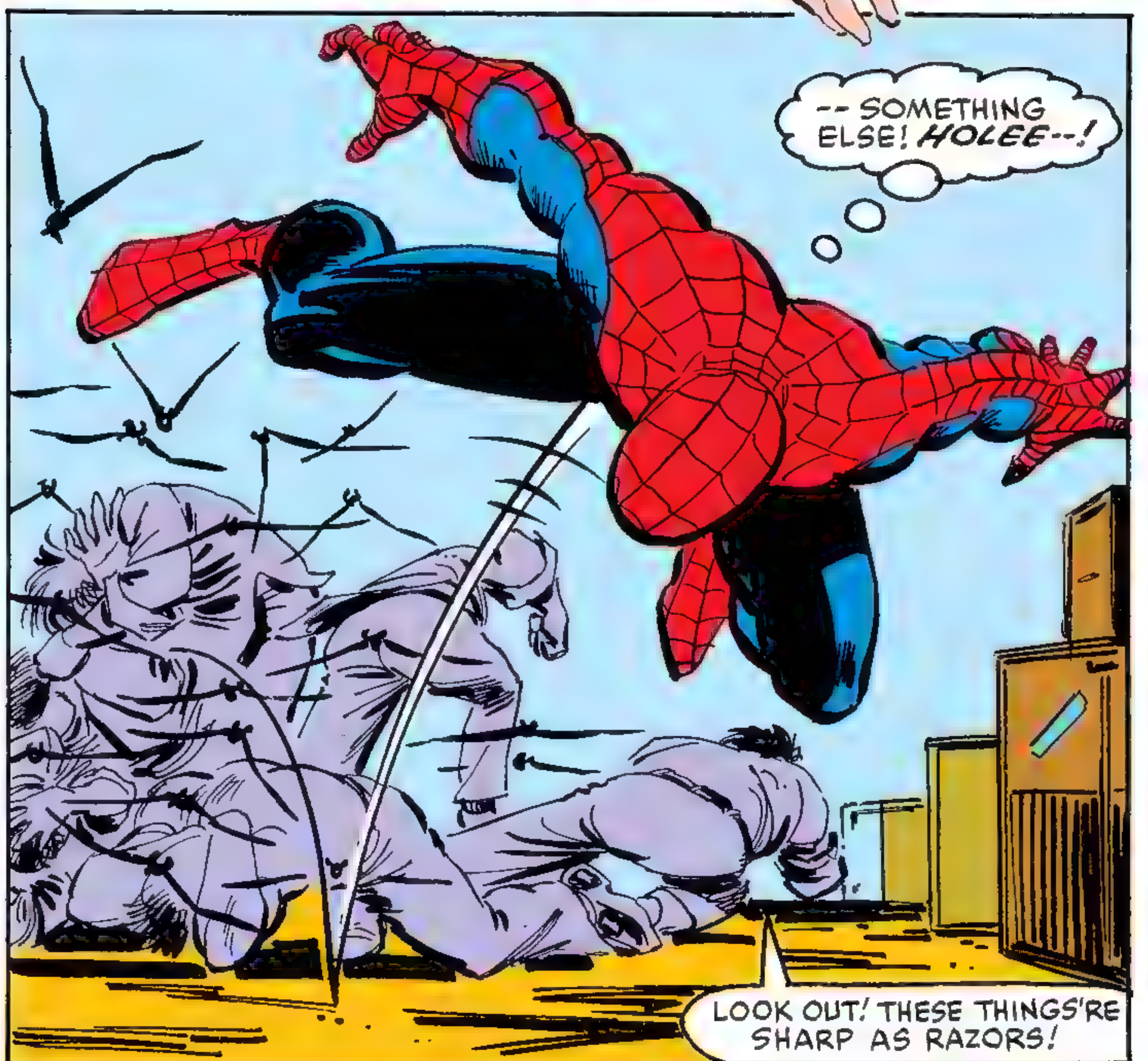
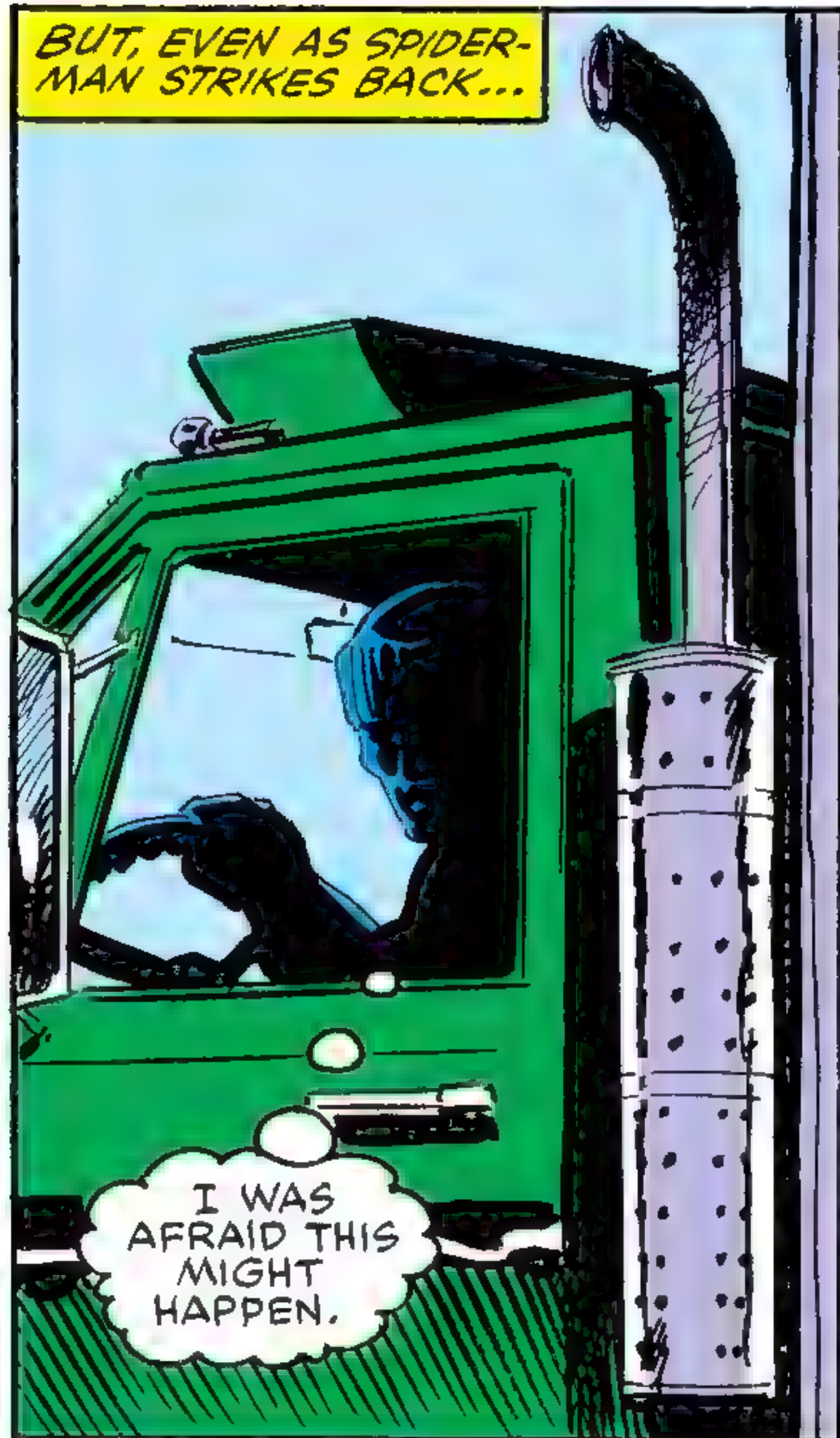
TSK-TSK! YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU READ IN THOSE SLEAZY TABLOIDS!

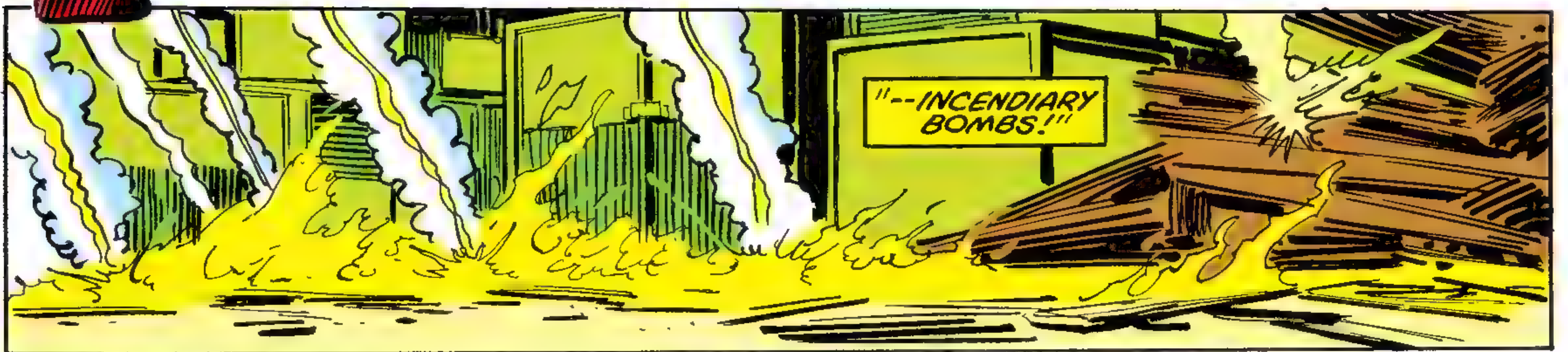
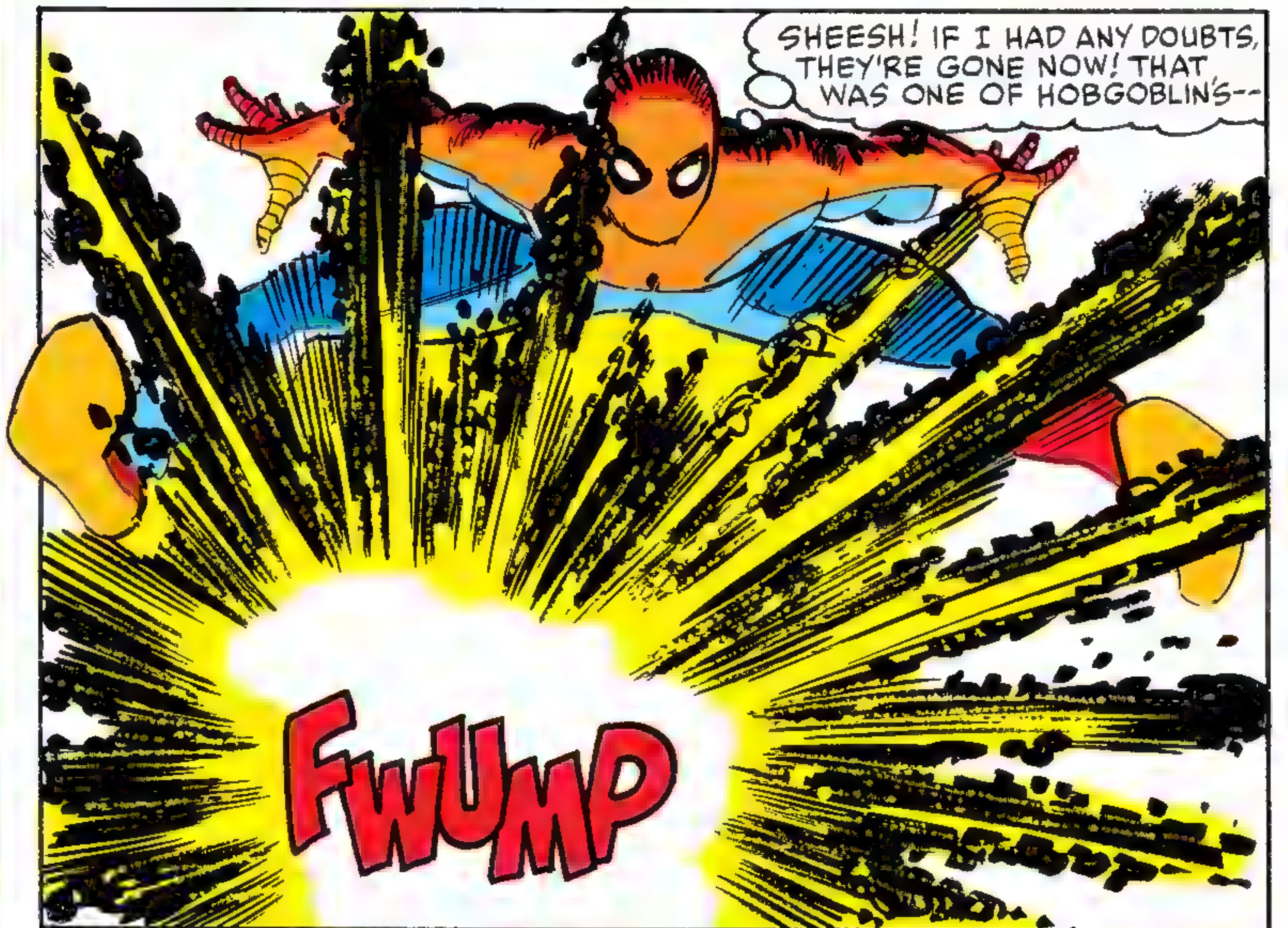
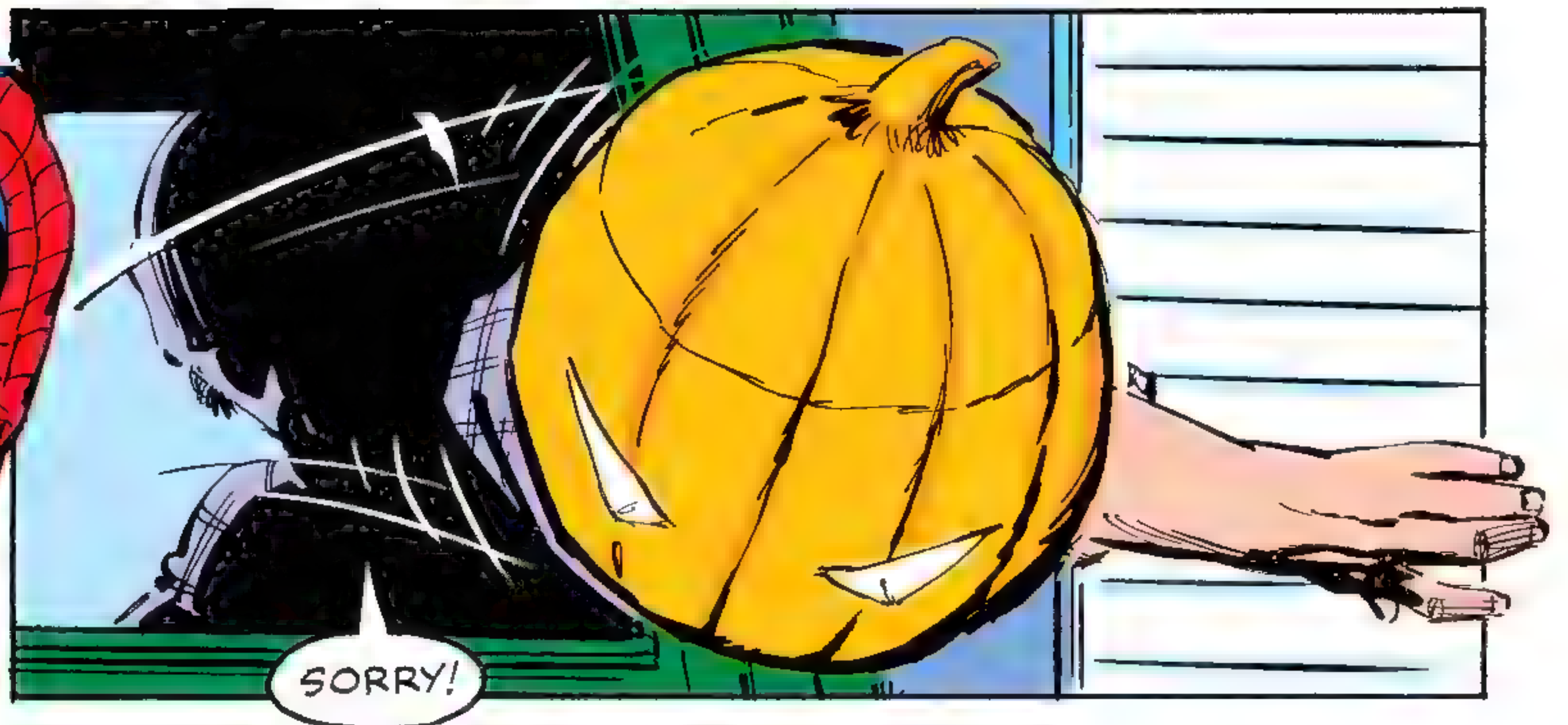
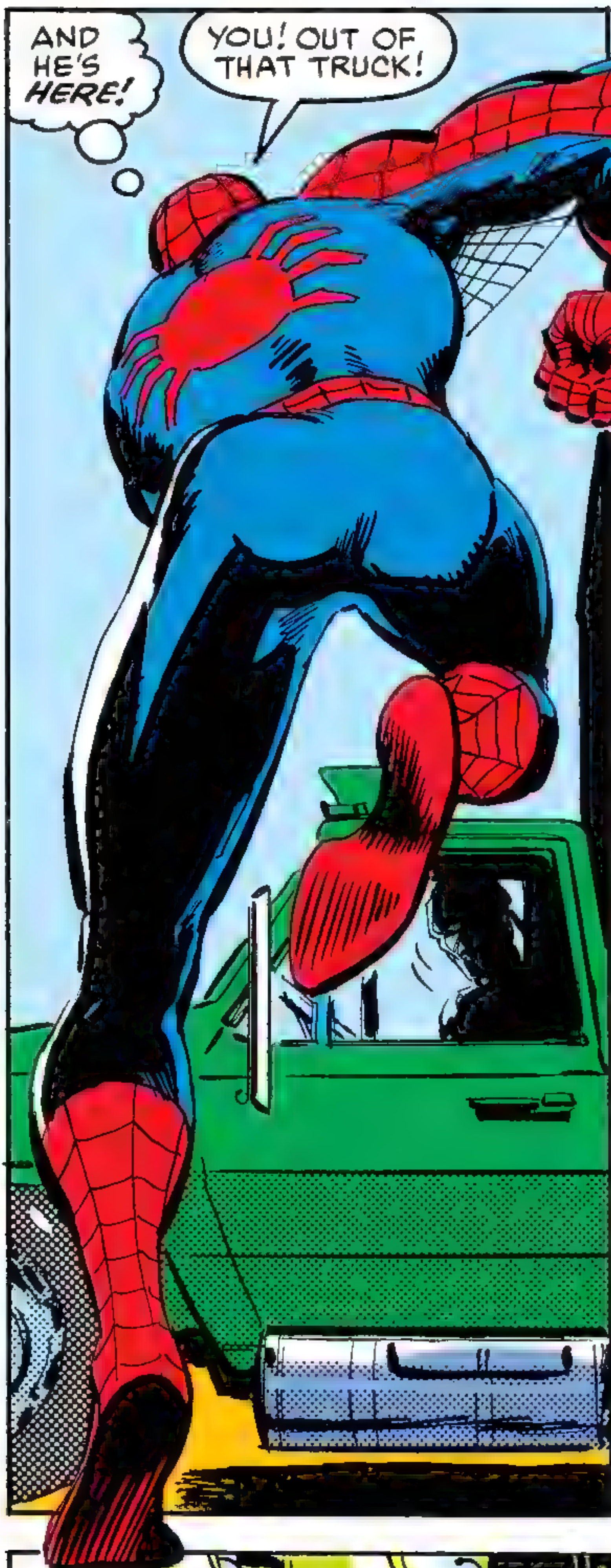
THE CORRECT INFORMATION IS: "HE HAS THE PRO-PORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER!"



AND THAT'S A HECKUVA LOT STRONGER THAN TEN MEN!

YEEOW! HE... HE WAS FAKIN'--!

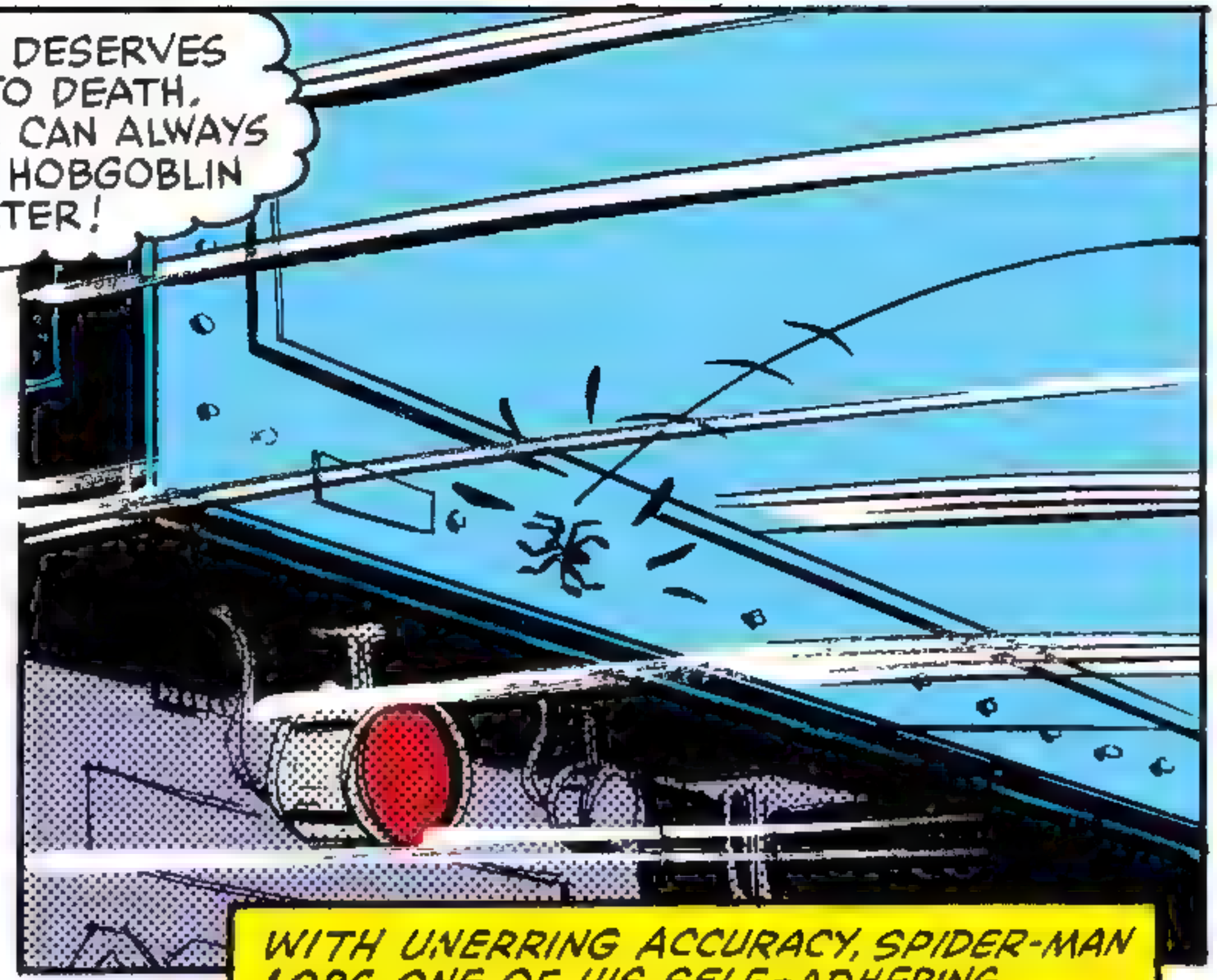




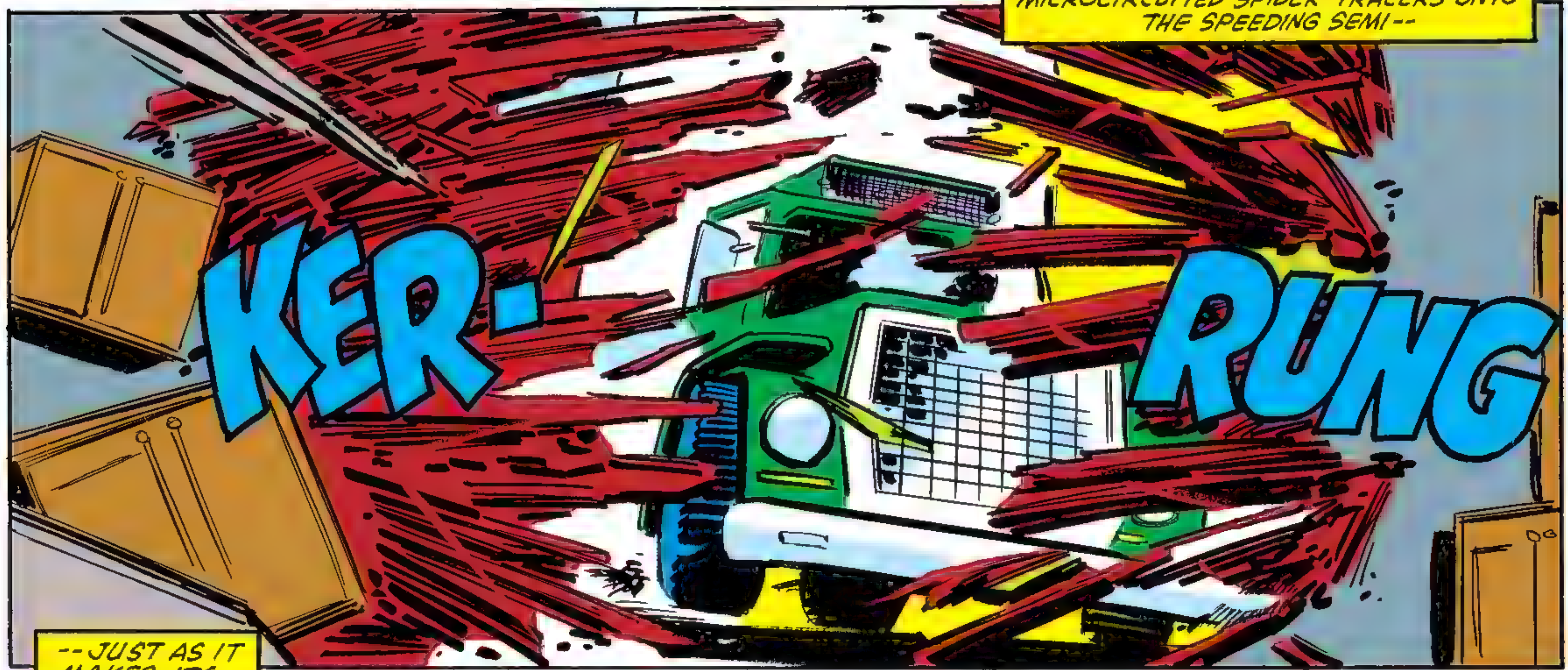


THERE'S REALLY NO CHOICE--

-- NO ONE DESERVES TO BURN TO DEATH, BESIDES I CAN ALWAYS FIND THE HOBGOBLIN LATER!



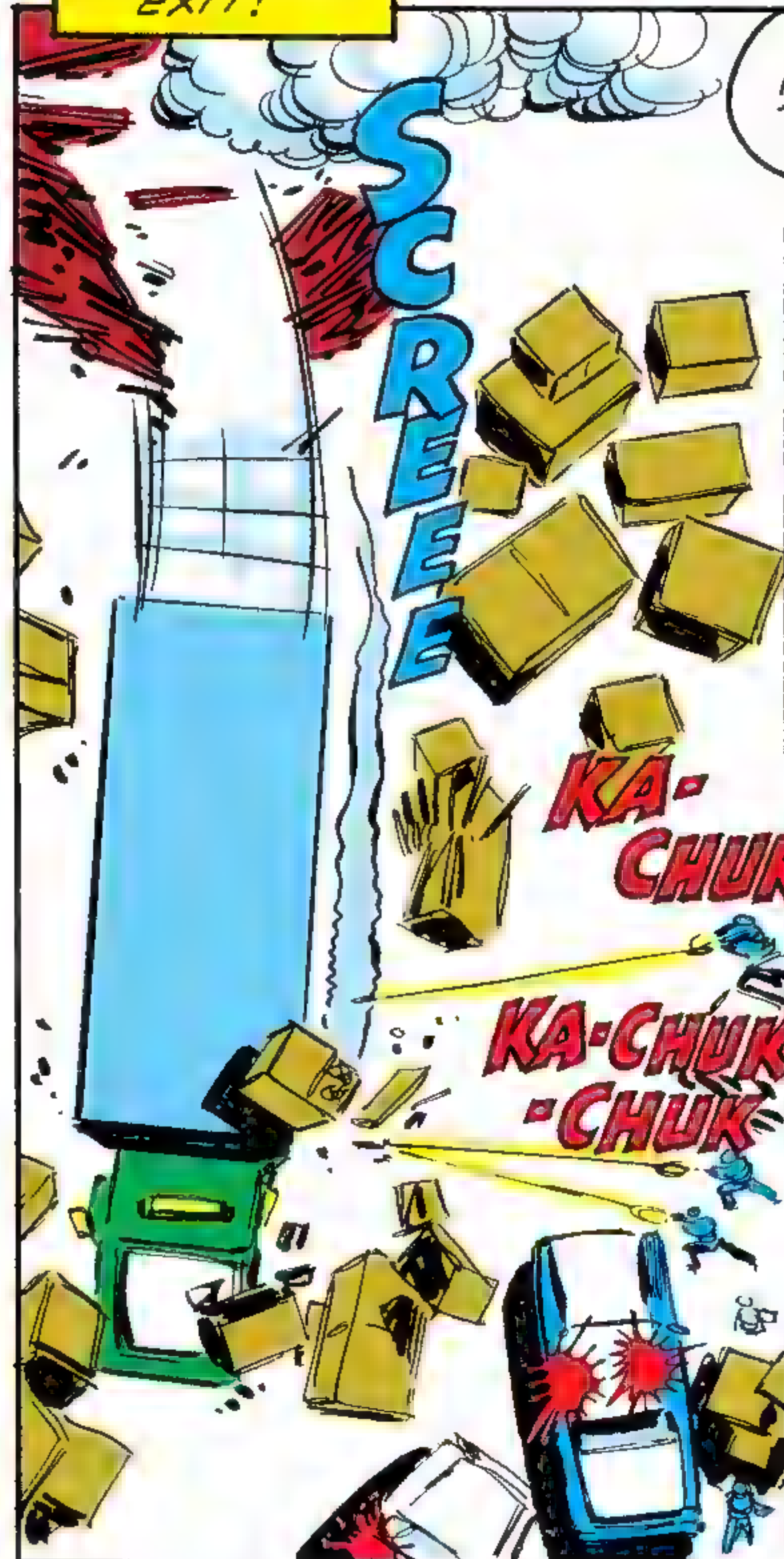
WITH UNERRING ACCURACY, SPIDER-MAN LOBS ONE OF HIS SELF-ADHERING MICROCIRCUITED SPIDER-TRACERS ONTO THE SPEEDING SEMI--



KER-

RUNG

-- JUST AS IT MAKES ITS EXIT!



SCREEE

KA-CHUK

KA-CHUK-CHUK

BENSON, GET OUT AN ALL-POINTS ON THAT SEMI! THE REST OF YOU COME WITH ME AND...OMIGOD!

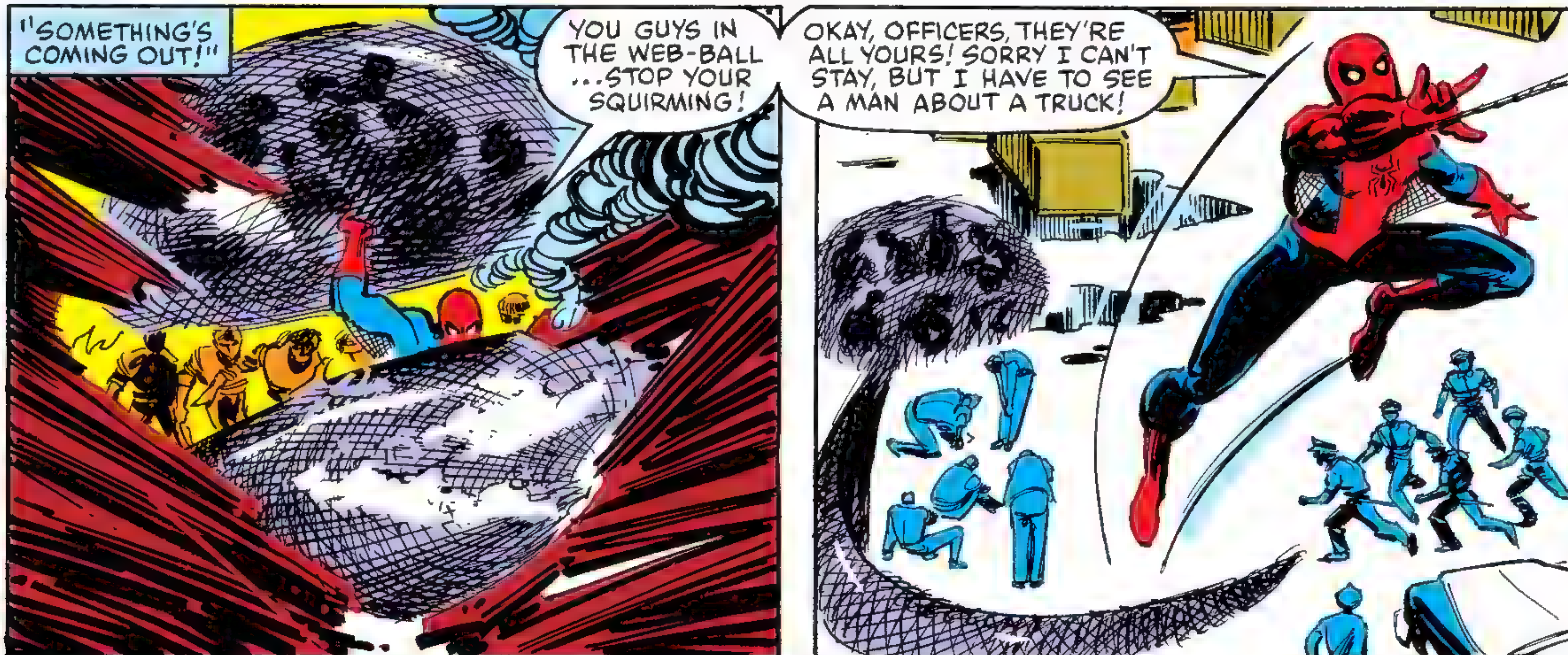


CANCEL THAT LAST ORDER! SEND FOR THE SMOKE EATERS...

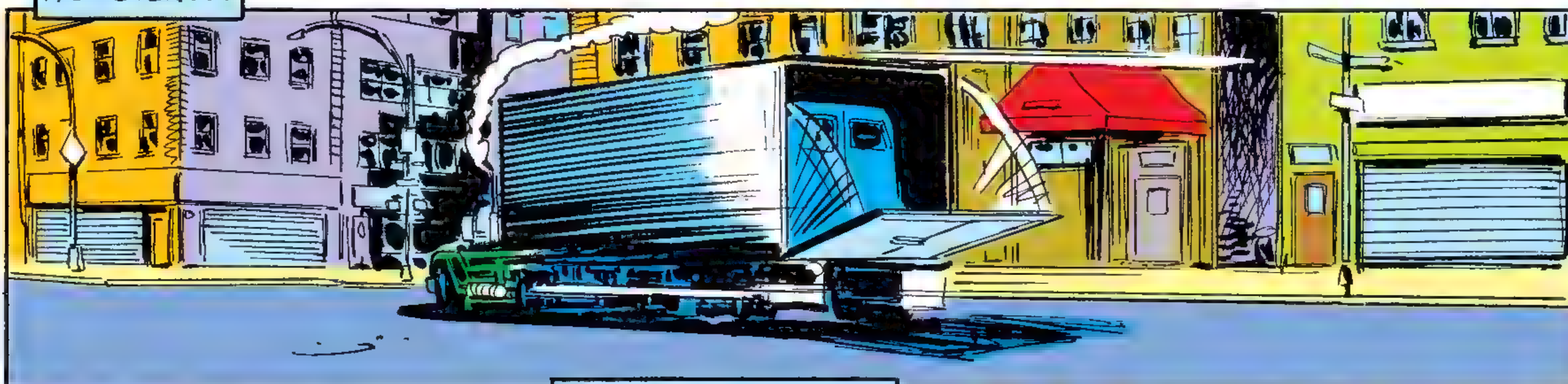
...AND THE MEAT WAGON. IF ANYONE'S ALIVE IN THERE, THEY WON'T BE FOR LONG!



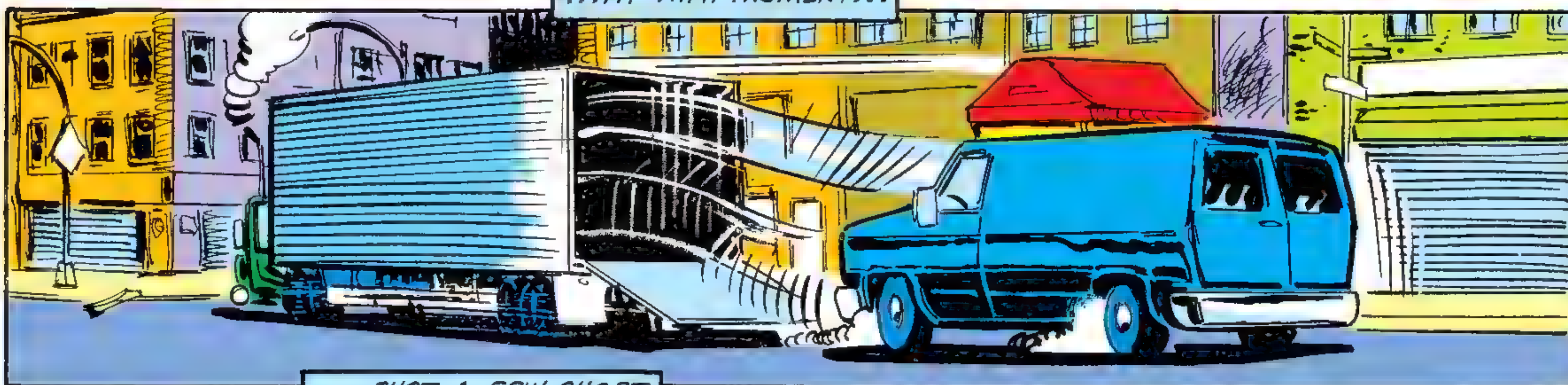
HEY, SARGE! LOOK!



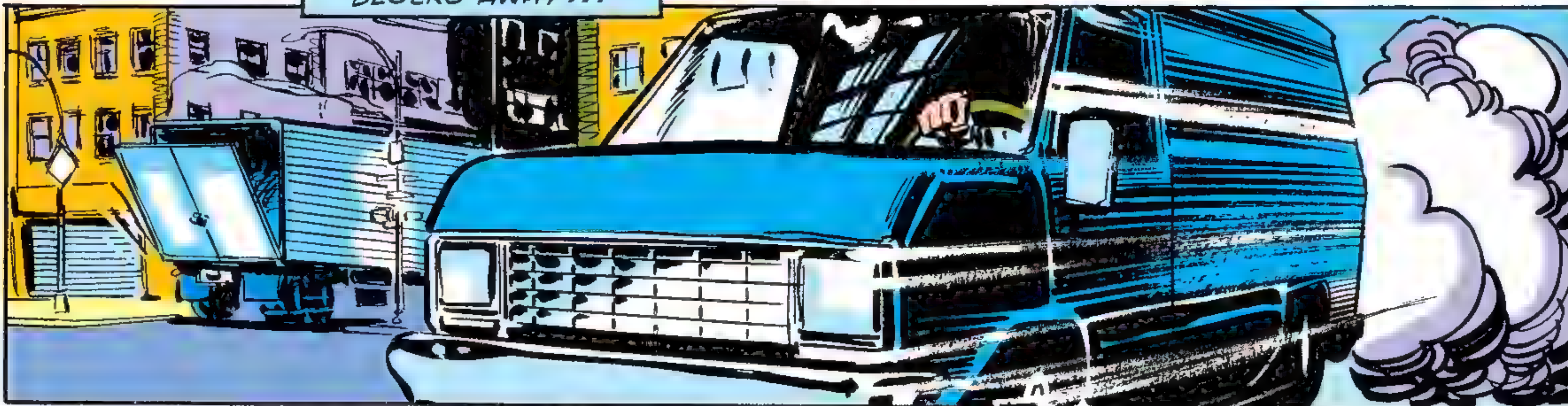
HOWEVER...

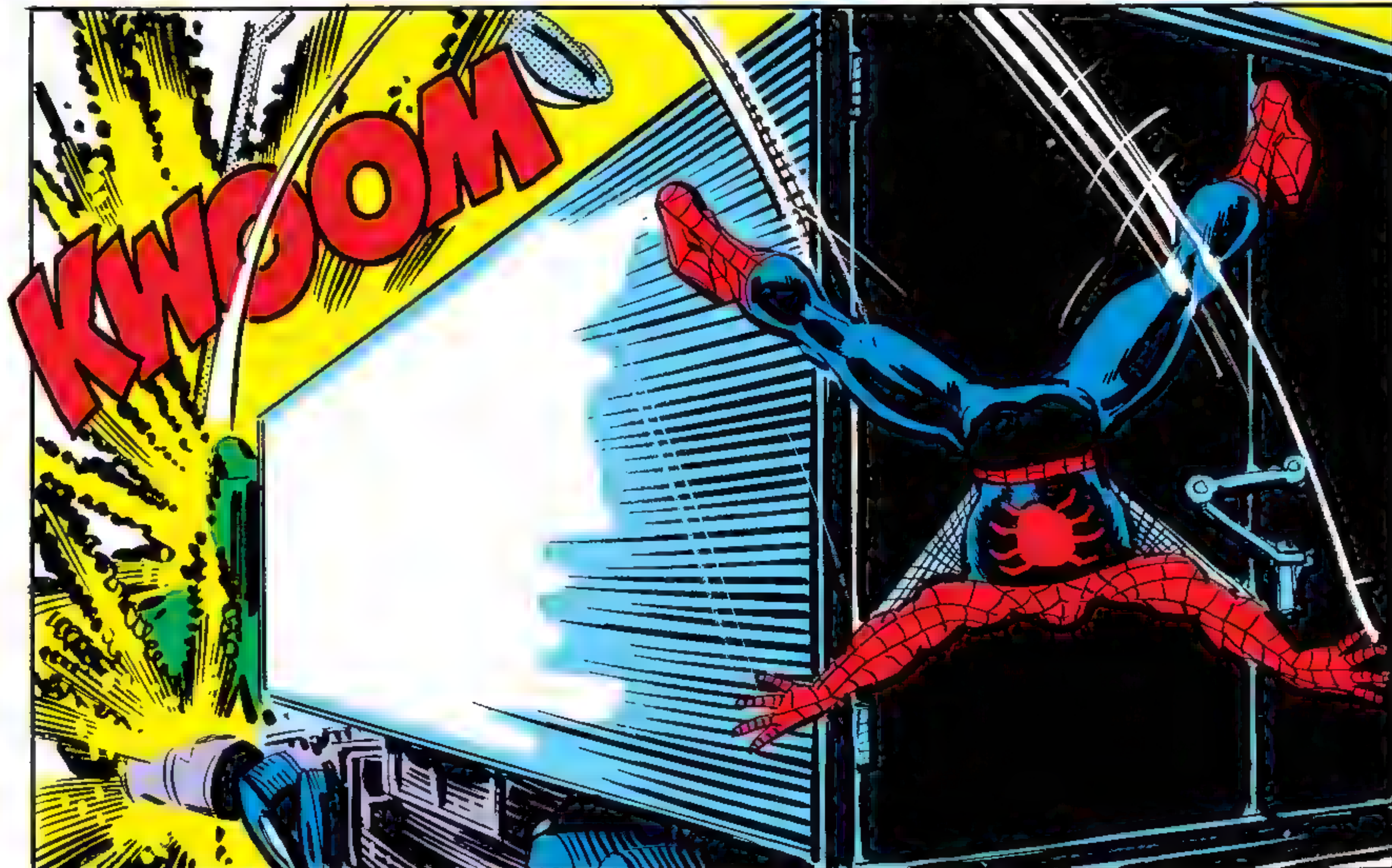
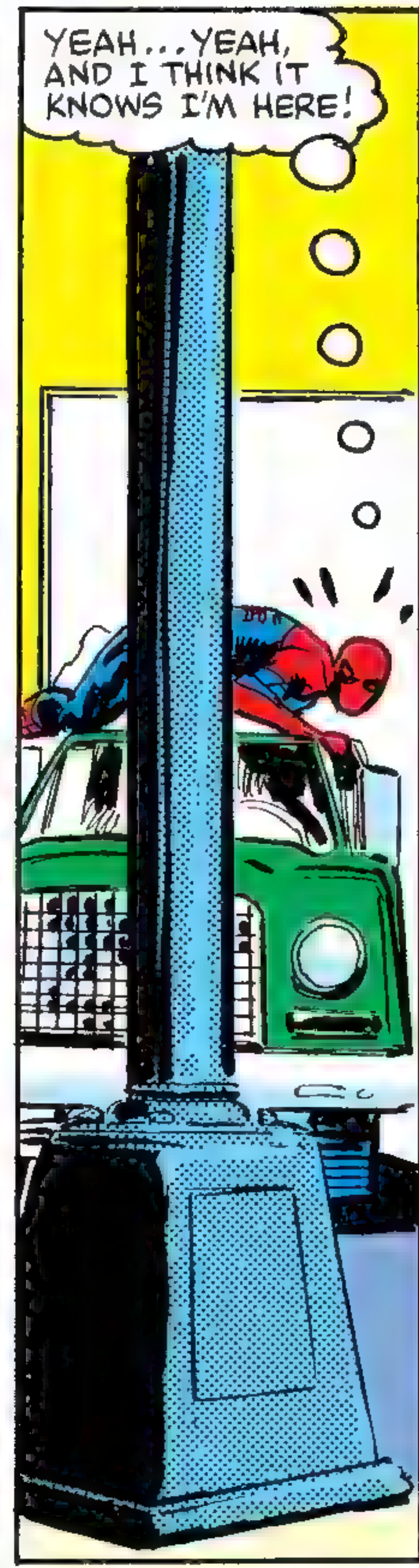
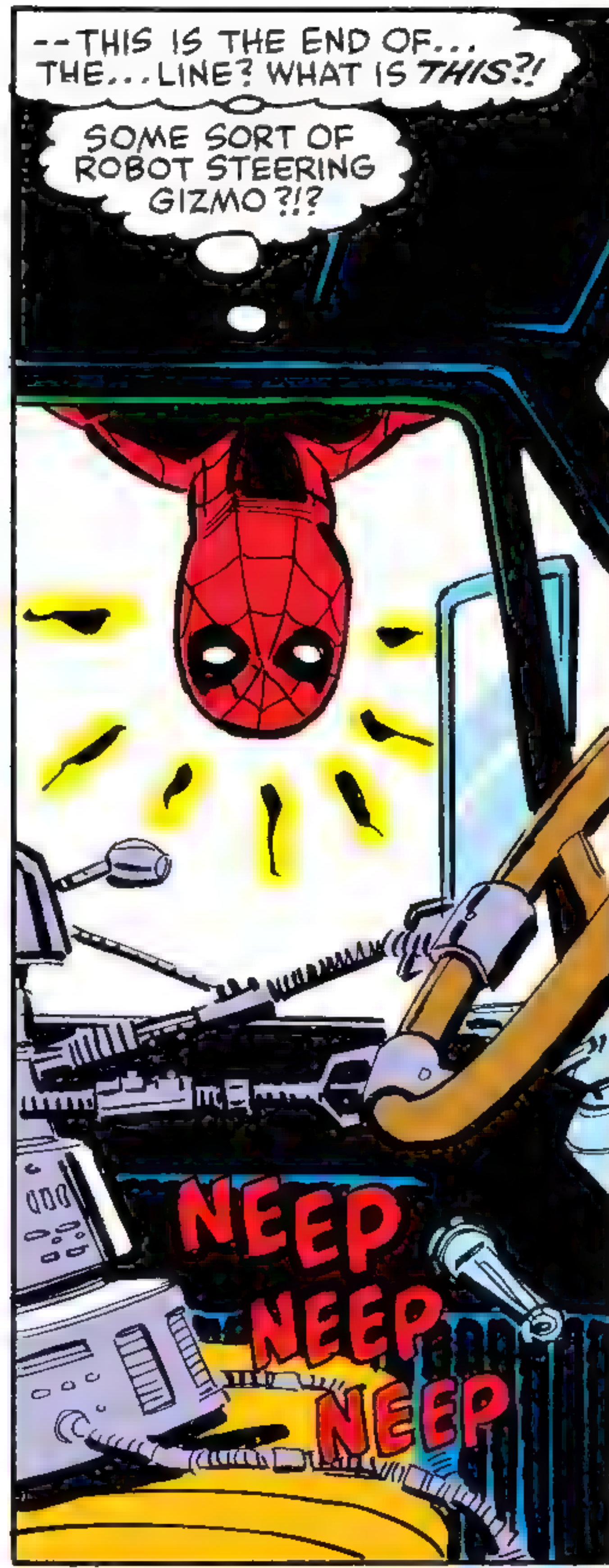
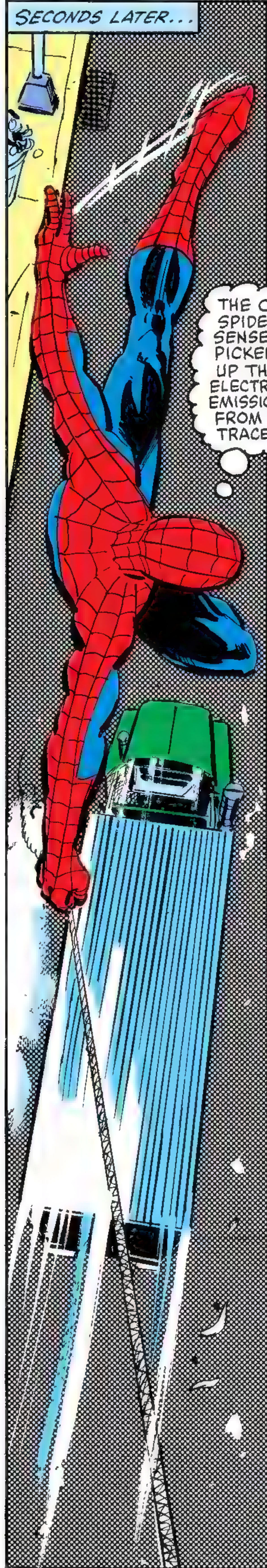


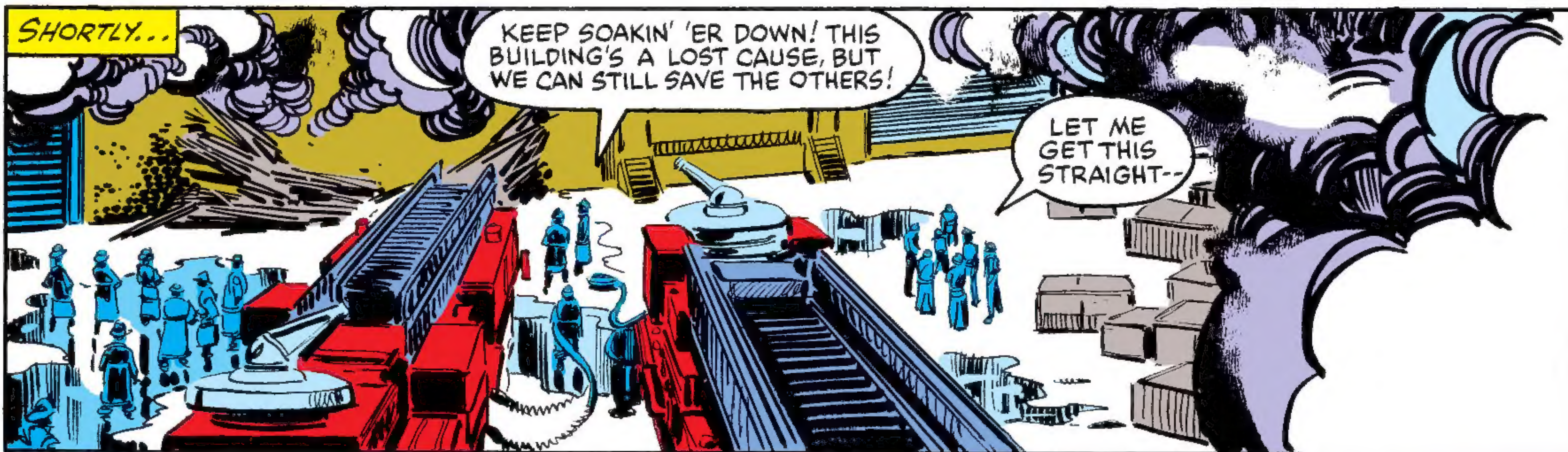
...AT THAT MOMENT...



...JUST A FEW SHORT BLOCKS AWAY...







SHORTLY...

KEEP SOAKIN' 'ER DOWN! THIS BUILDING'S A LOST CAUSE, BUT WE CAN STILL SAVE THE OTHERS!

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT--



--NONE OF YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU WERE BEING PAID TO STEAL?

THAT'S RIGHT, MAN. THE ONLY DUDE WHO KNEW WHAT WAS IN THOSE CRATES WE LOADED INTO THE TRUCK WAS THE ONE WHO HIRED US...LEFTY DONOVAN!

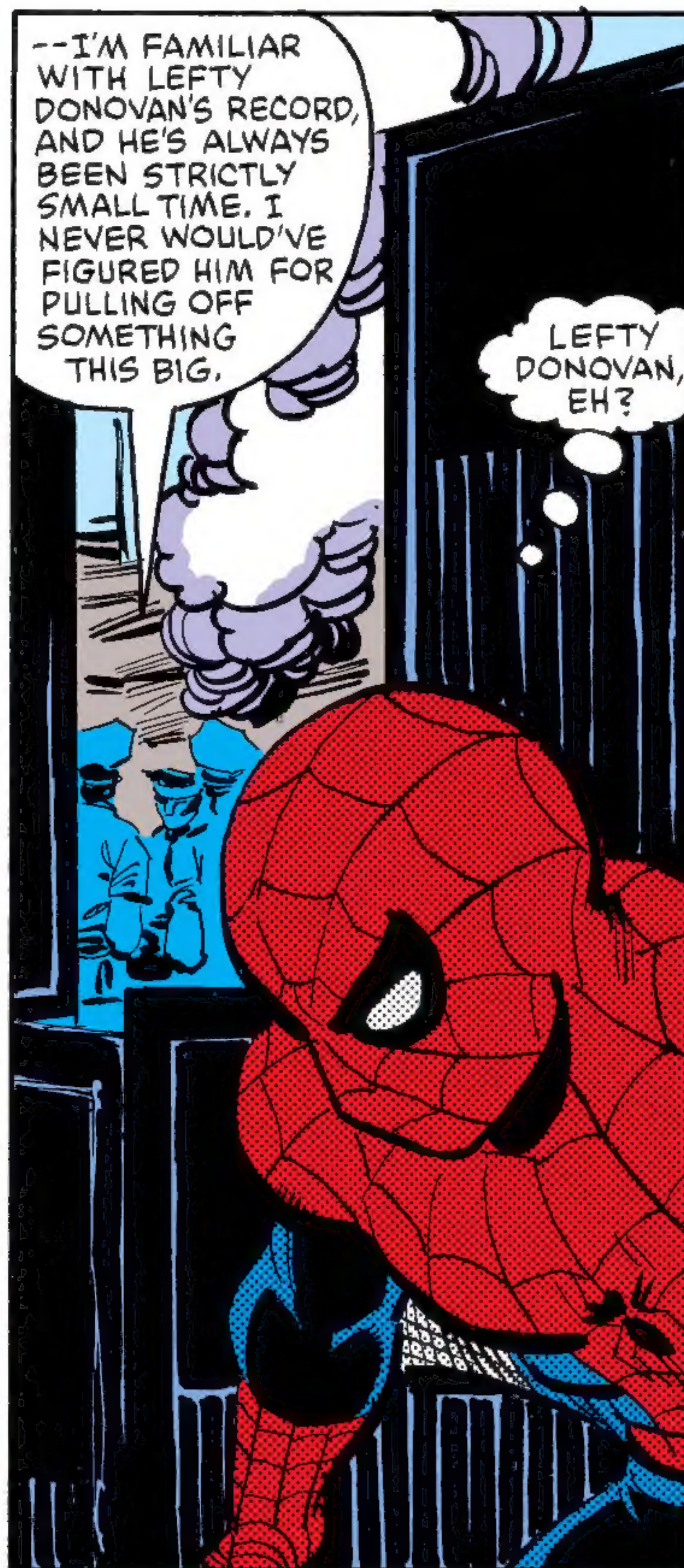
AN' I HOPE YOU NAIL THAT LOUSE! HE WOULD'VE LEFT US ALL IN THERE TO DIE!



STORY'S THE SAME FROM ALL OF 'EM, SARGE. THE ONLY OTHER BREAK-IN ANY OF 'EM WERE IN ON WAS THIS MORNING'S. NONE OF THEM KNOW THE WHY OR THE WHEREFORE.

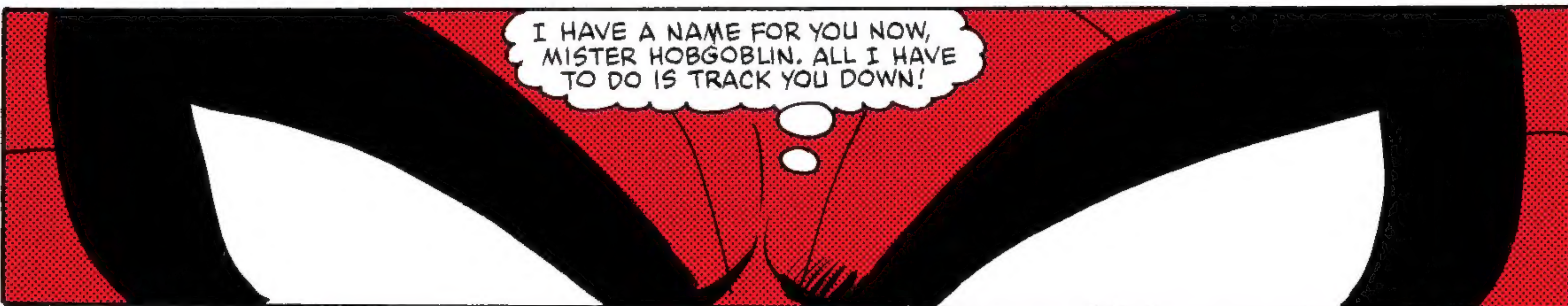
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT THIS DONOVAN GUY WANTED A SPECIFIC BATCH OF CHEMICALS THAT OSBORN HAD STORED HERE. BUT BETWEEN THE STOLEN REPORTS AND THE FIRE DAMAGE, WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHICH CHEMICALS!

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE --

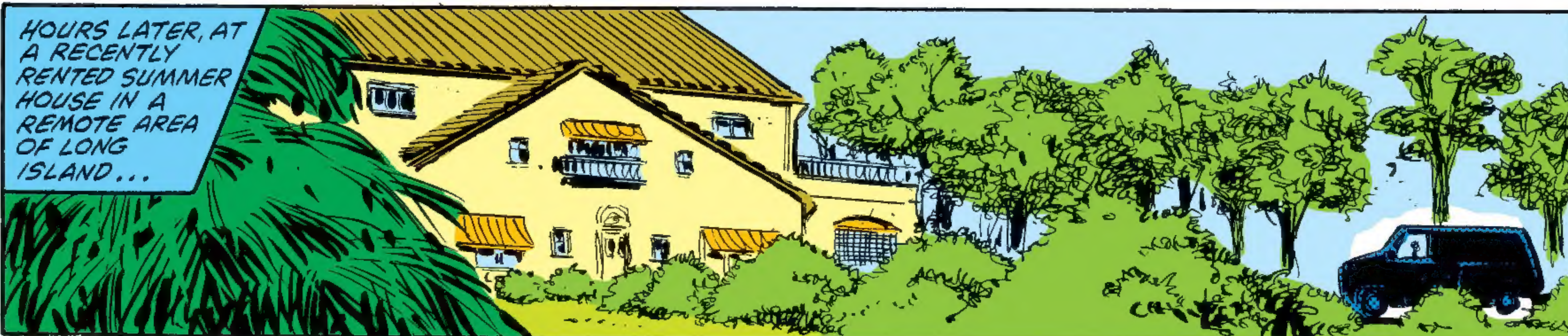


--I'M FAMILIAR WITH LEFTY DONOVAN'S RECORD, AND HE'S ALWAYS BEEN STRICTLY SMALL TIME. I NEVER WOULD'VE FIGURED HIM FOR PULLING OFF SOMETHING THIS BIG.

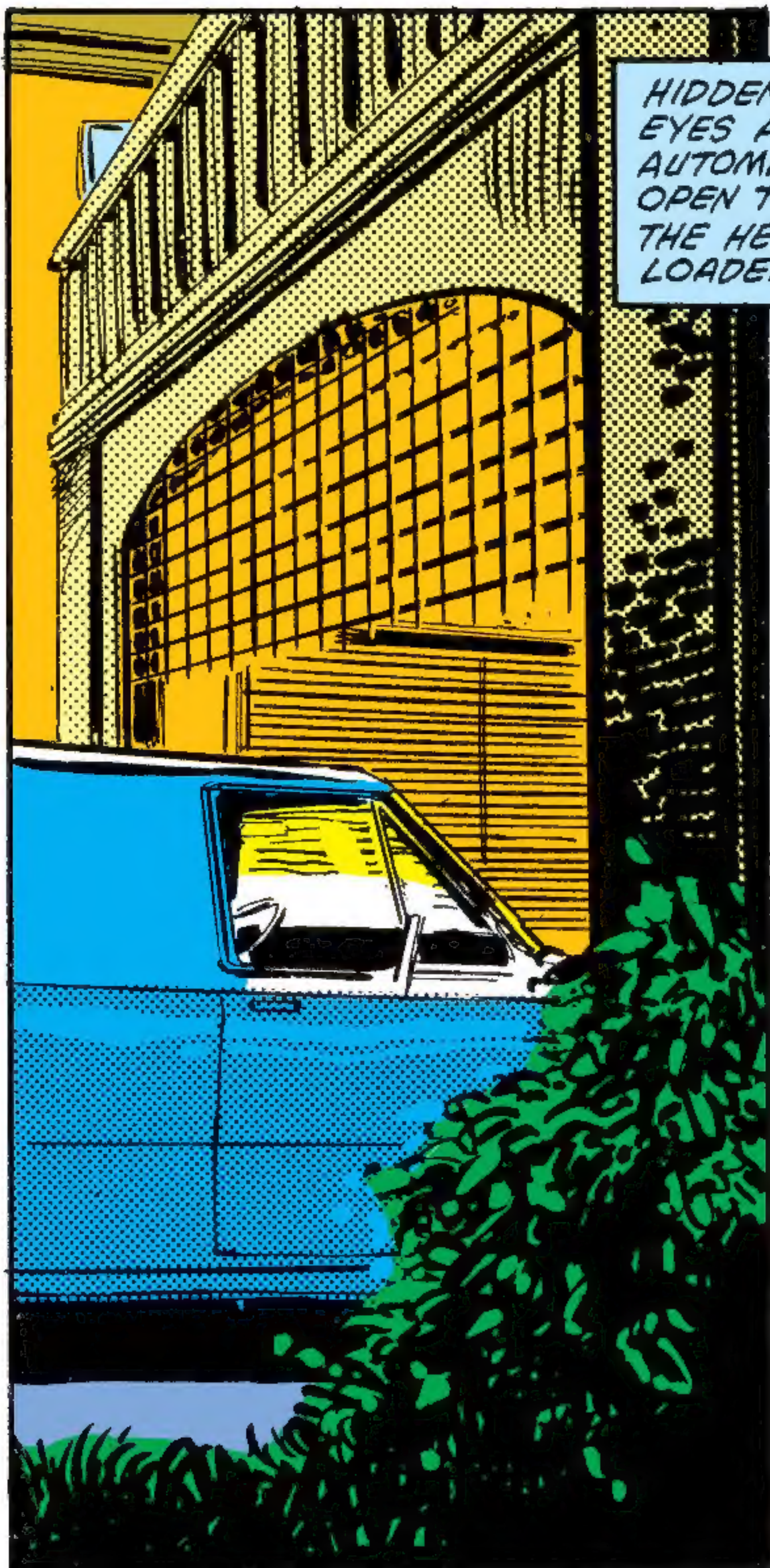
LEFTY DONOVAN, EH?



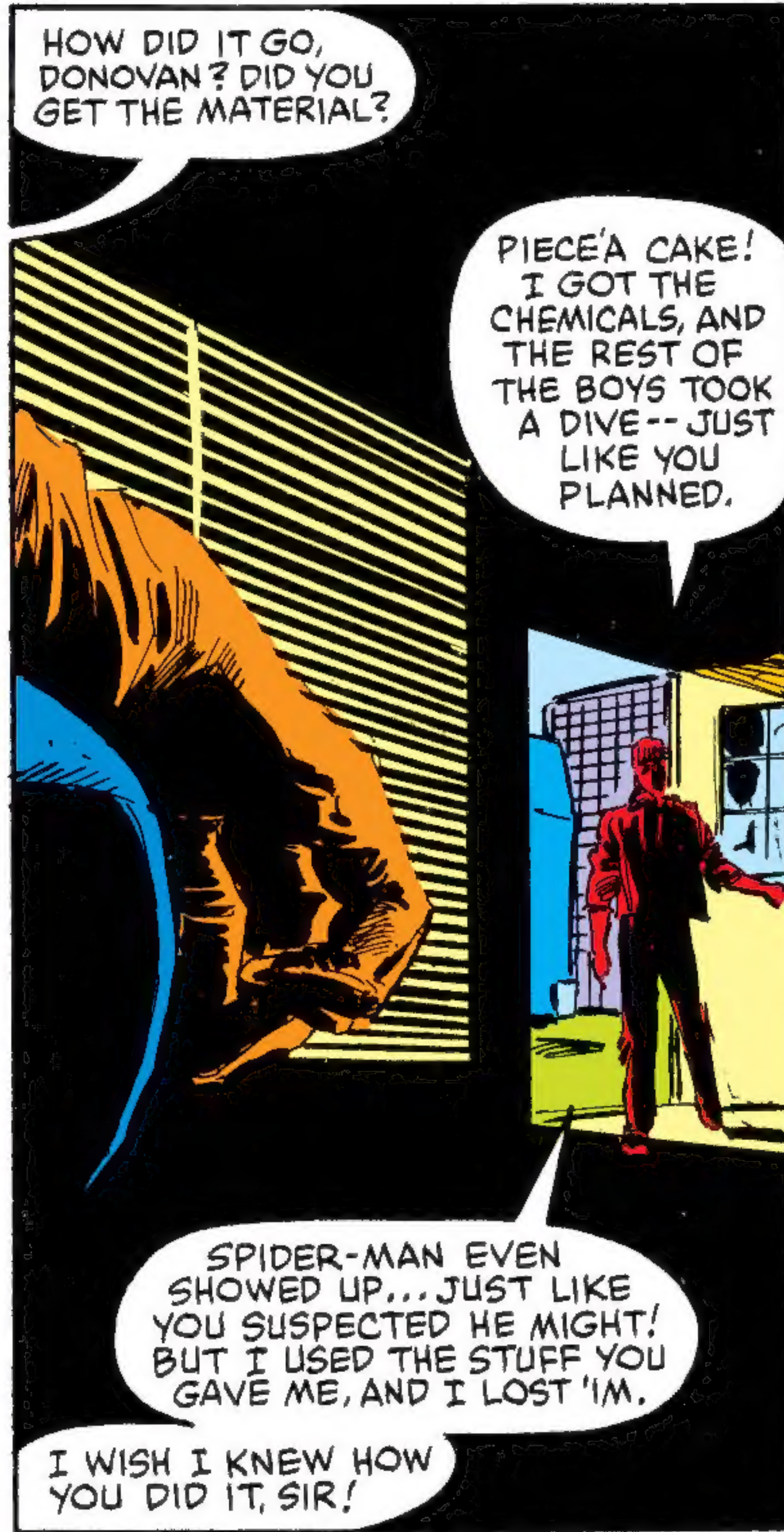
I HAVE A NAME FOR YOU NOW, MISTER HOBGOBLIN. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TRACK YOU DOWN!



HOURS LATER, AT A RECENTLY RENTED SUMMER HOUSE IN A REMOTE AREA OF LONG ISLAND...



HIDDEN ELECTRIC EYES ARE TRIPPED, AUTOMATIC GATES OPEN TO ADMIT THE HEAVILY LOADED VAN...



HOW DID IT GO, DONOVAN? DID YOU GET THE MATERIAL?

PIECE'A CAKE! I GOT THE CHEMICALS, AND THE REST OF THE BOYS TOOK A DIVE-- JUST LIKE YOU PLANNED.

SPIDER-MAN EVEN SHOWED UP... JUST LIKE YOU SUSPECTED HE MIGHT! BUT I USED THE STUFF YOU GAVE ME, AND I LOST 'IM.

I WISH I KNEW HOW YOU DID IT, SIR!



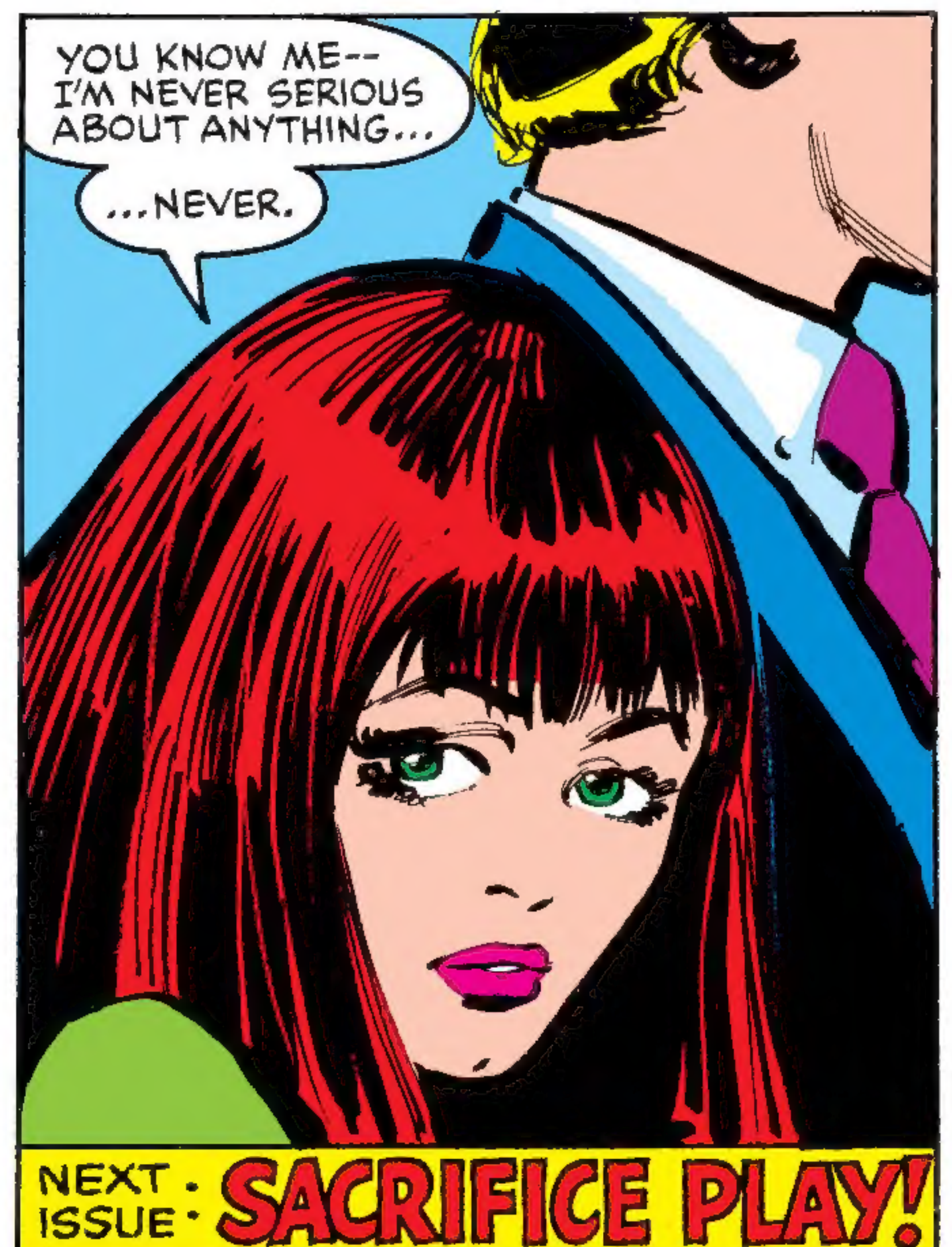
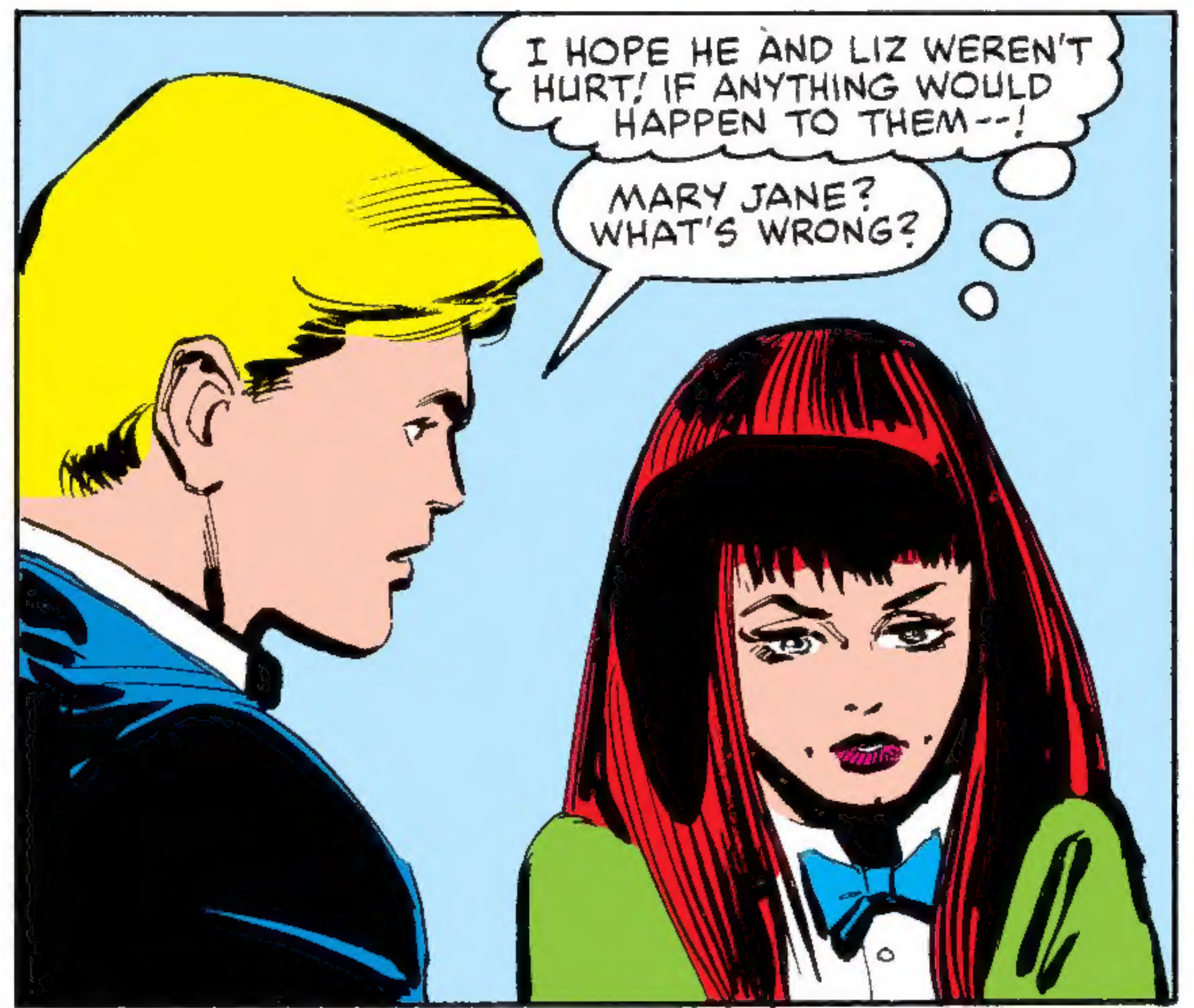
IT'S REALLY QUITE, SIMPLE, DONOVAN... JUST A MATTER OF GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ADVERSARIES AND PLANNING HOW BEST TO HUMBLE THEM.

WITH THE COMPOUNDS YOU'VE SECURED FOR ME, HUMBLING SPIDER-MAN WILL BECOME EVEN MORE OF A "PIECE'A CAKE" THAN IT IS NOW!

THOSE CHEMICALS WILL GIVE ME THE FULL PHYSICAL POWER WHICH THE ORIGINAL GREEN GOBLIN POSSESSED!



WITH SUCH STRENGTH AT MY COMMAND, SPIDER-MAN WILL BE POWERLESS TO STOP THE HOBGOBLIN!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
ELIOT BROWN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Tom,

After reading SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #76 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #239, I think I can say that the Black Cat is the best female companion for Spider-Man since the late Gwen Stacy. This is assuming, of course, that she gives up her thieving ways and discovers the charms of bashful Peter Parker.

The Hobgoblin is a great new addition. I hope he can get his act together enough to give ol' Wall-crawler a run for his money. Let's face it, the original Green Goblin was one heck of an opponent, but he was also as crazy as a rat in a drainpipe. The Hobgoblin, on the other hand, is obviously too normal in strength to go all-out against Spider-Man in the way the Green Goblin did. His nearer-to-normal mind, however, could conceivably spawn newer and more dangerous weapons to use against Spider-Man. At any rate, I wish him luck. He's going to need it.

Leslie C. Gyenge
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

You guys are doing one heckuva job in developing the Hobgoblin. From little hints throughout AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238-239, I get the feeling that the man under the Hobgoblin's mask is a man of some importance... a rich man, or a businessman in a high position. Anyway you look at it, though, this guy has to be just as much of a psycho as Osborn was. I think it will be interesting to see what happens with the Hobgoblin. When he gets his act together, he should be a formidable foe.

Also, I want to say, "Bring back Electro and Mysterio!"

Tony Stuart
Okauchee, WI 53069

Now this is interesting, Tony. You think the Hobgoblin is as nutty as the late Norman Osborn... but Leslie Gyenge thinks that Hobgoblin is far more sane. Oh well, at least you both think he's a real comer as an adversary for Spider-Man... as soon as he "gets his act together", as you both put it.

(Do you guys know each other?)

Dear Tom,

I'm a relatively new SPIDER-MAN reader. A few weeks ago, I renewed my subscription – and, boy, am I glad I did. Why? Because the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is one of the greatest comics I've ever read... and also because I'm dying to find out who the Hobgoblin is.

Could you please give me a hint of who the Hobgoblin is out of the mask and costume?

John Ryan
Northridge, CA 91325

I would if I could, John, but I can't! I don't want to get on Hobgoblin's bad side! Besides, *already* there have been hints. And evidently, a lot of folks out there think they've got his identity figured out...

Dear Tom,

You're not fooling anyone. The Hobgoblin is obviously J. Jonah Jameson!

Zoli Zambory
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

The Hobgoblin is Dr. Bart Hamilton!

Paul Best
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

I think it's the Kingpin's son.

David Pias
Racine, WI 53402

I think he's Jack O'Lantern in a new costume.

Randy Panacy
Lutx, FL 33549

... J. Jonah Jameson!

Nancy Yee
San Francisco, CA 94118

Roger HOchBerG is the HO-B-Goblin!

David Ricken
Wichita, KS 67212

Only the Chameleon could cook up those nutty masks so quickly

Bryan Jackson
Sheffield, England

My A-Number-One prediction is that Lance Bannon is the Hobgoblin.

Thad Crews Jr.
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Dear Roger, John and Tom:

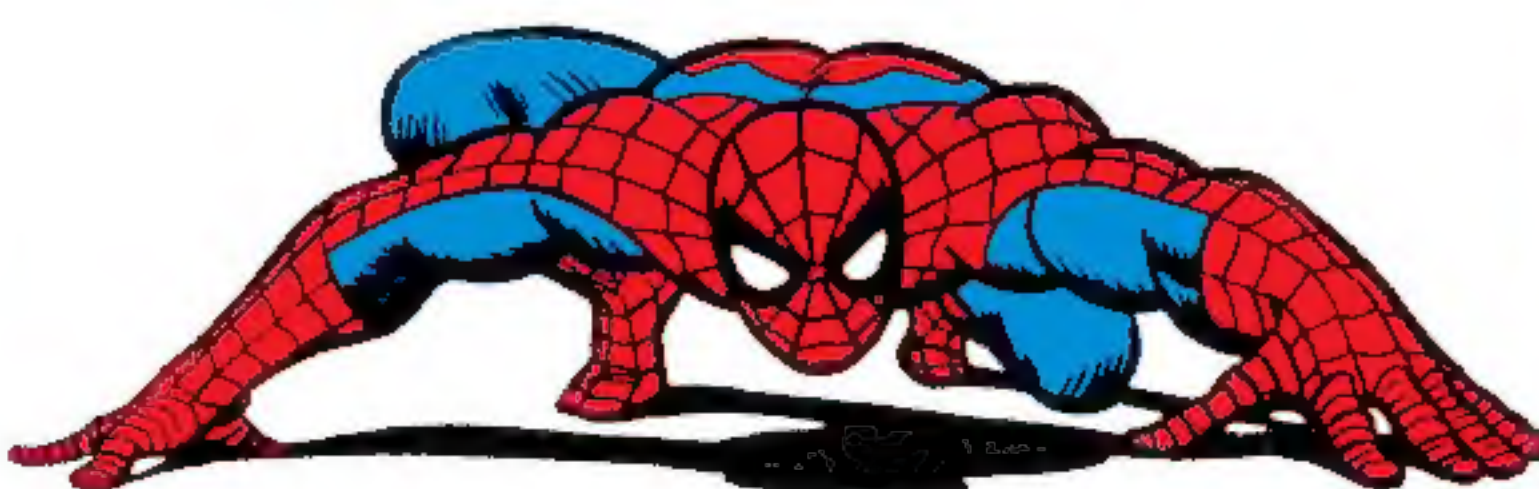
You guys deserve a hand. Here, take my left... ha, hah-ha! No, really, you are doing a great job. The recent introduction of the Hobgoblin was crazy, and I thought the idea of him using the Green Goblin's weaponry was fantastic!

Issues #235-239 have upped your standings in my book tenfold. The Black Cat has been just superb... Aunt May is healthy and happy with Nathan, and the boarding house is working out well. Please do not – I repeat, do NOT – take Aunt May out of this series.

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in general has been reaching new plateaus of quality and story content, and the interweaving of storylines between the three Spider-titles has been very good! Please keep up the good work, all of you! (You, too, Glynis Wein! Your work does not go unappreciated!)

Thanks again. I'll remember you all when it's time to renew my subscription.

James L. Card
Berkeley, CA 94709



Dear Crew,

After twenty years of following life in the Marvel Universe, I have decided to write my first letter to a comics title. I could tell you how I approve of the direction that many of the titles are moving in. However, to make your job easier, I will limit my comments to SPIDER-MAN #239.

On page 19, we see Spider-Man minus his underarm webbing. This is a small mistake for such a well-produced book, but the quality of material coming out of Marvel in the past few years makes us all the more observant.

A. Michaels
Columbus, OH 43201

Sorry to disappoint you, A.M., but Spider-Man isn't really missing his webbing in that shot. At the angle he's standing, his underarm webbing would be seen edge on... if you *could* see it against the dark portions of his costume, which you *can't*!

Dear Tom,

I see nothing but trouble for Spider-Man in the near future. Doctor Octopus is red-hot for revenge, the Hobgoblin is out and about, the Black Cat is in critical condition, and there are still more super-villains headed Spider-Man's way. (Is the re-appearance of Madame Webb in issue #239 a foreshadowing of the return of the Jugger-naut?) In all of this mess, I have some solutions for helping Spider-Man out:

1) Let the Black Cat pull through. Her love for Spider-Man will give him the extra strength he needs.

2) Captain DeWolff is also good at providing moral support for Spider-Man. Let's see more of her.

3) Let Peter Parker pass his first-year finals.

4) Let Nathan Lubensky have another pep talk with Peter. They always seem to do so much good for Pete's head.

Finally, I agree with you, Tom! We don't want to see Aunt May die. If she does, I'll be one very disappointed Spider-Fan.

Chuck Brigman
Chapin, SC 29036

NEXT ISSUE: The search for Lefty Donovan is on, and Spider-Man is getting absolutely no help from the authorities. (Hey, can you blame them? When was the last time Spider-Man cooperated with them?) But that's only part of the problem facing our friendly neighborhood whatshisname! While he's searching for the wrong man, the Hobgoblin is busily recreating the chemical experiment which turned Norman Osborne into the powerful Green Goblin! And when the smoke clears... well! The story's called "Sacrifice Play!" and it's all yours in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #245... on sale in just thirty days, give or take an hour.

Who knows, maybe we'll even learn the Hobgoblin's real identity? And maybe we won't...

Tom DeFalco